



NEWS

ILLINOIS
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August 2001

Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs

NORTH AMERICAN LIGHTING EXPANDING TO PARIS, ILLINOIS; Project will employ 300

Congratulating the company on its continued growth, Governor George H. Ryan joined company officials to announce the decision by Flora-based North American Lighting, Inc. (NAL) to build a new 150,000 square-foot facility in Paris.

"NAL's presence is already strong in southern and southeastern Illinois with nearly 2,000 workers, and this new venture will further broaden its role in the state's business community," the Governor said.

The company, which also operates a manufacturing facility in Salem, had considered sites in Indiana for the plant, but chose to build in Illinois — a decision that pleased DCCA Director Pam McDonough.

"NAL's growth here demonstrates that Illinois has the right business climate for companies looking to expand," McDonough said. "Governor Ryan's economic development policies are helping DCCA provide targeted support to companies such as NAL that provide new job opportunities for Illinoisans."

McDonough said the company is eligible for tax credits through the Economic Development for a Growing Economy (EDGE) Program, as well as workforce training funds through the Industrial Training Program (ITP). In addition, funds from the Business Development Public Infrastructure Program (BDPIP) will be provided to the City of Paris to assist with infrastructure improvements necessary to the project.

NAL President/CEO Dan Robusto thanked the city, state and Paris Economic Development Corporation (PEDCO) for their assistance in making the project possible. "The State of Illinois, Governor Ryan and the community of Paris continue to demonstrate a commitment to creating high quality manufacturing jobs for their citizens," he said.

North American Lighting, Inc., owned by Koito Manufacturing Co., Ltd. of Japan, is a leading supplier of lighting assemblies for the U.S. automotive industry. The Paris plant will produce leading edge automotive lighting products, including the new High Intensity Discharge (HID) type of forward lighting becoming increasingly popular in the automotive market.

The plant is expected to begin operations in June 2002.

LAND O'FROST EXPANDS IN ILLINOIS \$13 million expansion will retain 250 jobs and create 25 jobs

A Lansing-based food processing company has chosen to expand in Illinois — a move expected to retain 250 workers and create jobs for an additional 25 workers.

Land O'Frost, founded by a Dutch immigrant who came to the United States following the First World War, processes and packages a variety of meat products. The company plans to increase the size of its manufacturing facility by nearly half, enhancing its ability to meet customer needs.

"Land O'Frost is yet another in a long list of home-grown companies that have undergone major expansions and have elected to remain in Illinois," said DCCA Director Pam McDonough. "The business climate fostered by Governor Ryan, and the skilled and dedicated workforce that exists here, are two of the major reasons we are seeing this kind of continued economic growth."

McDonough said Land O'Frost will be eligible to receive tax credits through the Economic Development for a Growing Economy (EDGE) Program, as well as assistance through the Industrial Training Program (ITP) to help train its workers.

"Governor Ryan and the Department of Commerce and Community Affairs have been instrumental in helping us realize the full potential of our expansion plans," said George Smolar, Land O'Frost Vice President Finance.

GOVERNOR SIGNS LAW ELIMINATING MTBE

**Measure protects groundwater,
helps promote ethanol**

Governor George H. Ryan has signed legislation banning the use, manufacture or sale of methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) as a fuel additive, as well as the transportation of fuel containing MTBE in Illinois.

The measure, which takes effect in three years, is expected to help promote the use of corn-based ethanol as a fuel additive, and eliminate any environmental threat to Illinois posed by MTBE.



Governor George H. Ryan signs legislation banning MTBE as a fuel additive in Illinois.

"MTBE is known to contaminate groundwater," said the Governor. "This law bans its use in Illinois fuel and gives us the opportunity to use more ethanol produced from Illinois-grown corn. We will produce fuel that promotes clean air and does not contaminate our drinking water." MTBE is a petroleum-based fuel additive designed to reduce carbon monoxide emissions and increase fuel octane; however, the substance has been identified as a possible carcinogen that has been detected in groundwater in Illinois. Adding ethanol to gasoline also reduces carbon monoxide emissions and raises octane, without the environmental threat.

As more states move to phase out the use of MTBE, the demand for ethanol is expected to rise — good news for Illinois, which is the nation's leading producer of ethanol. DCCA Director Pam McDonough said additional usage will benefit both Illinois businesses and farmers, increasing the value of corn by as much as 10 cents per bushel.

"It's estimated that eliminating MTBE over the next four years could double the demand for ethanol — a demand that could mean anywhere from \$5 billion to \$8 billion in additional revenue for farmers," she said.

The MTBE Elimination Act also includes provisions under which local governments may be eligible to receive technical assistance and funding to test drinking water for MTBE contamination.



Why Illinois is Helping Mexico Develop an Ethanol Industry



A Message from Director Pam McDonough

Mexico has a couple of problems that Illinois may be able to lend a hand in helping solve, while at the same time creating new economic opportunities here. The problems facing Mexico include too much smog in Mexico City and not enough demand for sugarcane. The solution to these two problems could lie in using Illinois' expertise to help establish an ethanol industry in Mexico.

As the nation's ethanol leader, Illinois produces more than 700 million gallons of the renewable fuel annually, which is almost half of the total U.S. production. Right now, there is about \$1 billion invested in our state's ethanol industry, with new investments being made every day. Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, for example, is currently building a \$20 million ethanol research facility which will help develop new methods of turning corn and other renewable materials into fuel.

In Illinois, ethanol is produced primarily from corn. In Mexico though, sugarcane would be used to produce the fuel, which would enhance the market for that crop. Brazil has had success turning sugarcane into ethanol. Doing the same in Mexico would be welcome news for sugarcane growers there who have protested the fact that an over-abundance of the crop has depressed prices. Meanwhile, residents of Mexico City would benefit from such an arrangement because the cleaner burning fuel could be mixed with gasoline there, helping reduce smog.

This win-win-win scenario was discussed both times that Governor George Ryan and Mexican President Vicente Fox have met. Both leaders agreed to establish a dialogue on an ethanol technology exchange, and I recently visited Mexico with Illinois Department of Agriculture Director Joe Hampton to talk about this with our counterparts from the Mexican government. Those talks proved to be very productive and we expect a team of Mexican officials to visit Illinois this month to learn more about this important industry.

Some people may question why Illinois would agree to share ethanol technology with a country that could eventually be a competitor in this industry. The answer is that establishing such a partnership will benefit the Illinois economy.

By creating a new ethanol market south of the border, we open up new markets for Illinois corn and other commodities. If the price of sugarcane rebounds because there is new demand for it as the result of increased ethanol production, there will be greater market opportunities for corn-based sweeteners, which will in turn help corn growers and food processing companies in Illinois. As the Mexican ethanol industry grows, it will constantly require new ethanol technology to be competitive. That demand can only benefit Illinois businesses that are on the cutting edge of developing new technologies to turn crops and other renewable by-products into clean burning fuels.

There's no question that the demand for ethanol is increasing. California and other states are switching to ethanol because of the environmental problems created by another widely used fuel additive, MTBE. Governor Ryan recently signed legislation banning MTBE in Illinois, and within the next two years it's expected that half the U.S. states will have banned the use of MTBE as a fuel additive.

Forging a partnership with our neighbors in Mexico in developing an ethanol industry simply makes sense. Helping build a viable ethanol industry in Mexico can help meet North America's energy demands in the future by tapping into a variety of renewable resources. Already, Mexico is Illinois' second largest trading partner, importing more than \$3.6 billion worth of goods from our state. By strengthening our ties with Mexico, we will strengthen our overall economy.



DCCA, UTILITIES PARTNER TO HELP LOW-INCOME ILLINOISANS PAY DELINQUENT HEATING BILLS

Low-income customers of several Illinois utility companies are bringing their accounts up to date before the winter, thanks to innovative partnerships between DCCA, these Illinois utility companies and \$7.1 million in Special Projects funding made available through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

LIHEAP is a state and federally funded program designed to assist households with incomes below 150 percent of poverty levels to pay their winter energy bills.

The partnerships with AmerenCIPS, Nicor Gas, North Shore Gas, and Peoples Energy and the City of Chicago, offer households that received LIHEAP benefits last winter an opportunity to pay off remaining balances prior to the start of this winter's heating season. More than 320,000 Illinois households received LIHEAP benefits averaging \$500 per household last winter.

DCCA Director Pam McDonough said the additional funds offer people a chance to get out from under seemingly insurmountable bills that piled up due to last winter's cold weather and high energy costs. "Last winter's high heating costs devastated many family budgets," McDonough said. "This program offers eligible families the opportunity to begin budgeting for next winter's costs without worrying about last year's unpaid balances. It's a way to emerge from debt and restore dignity."

DCCA provided a \$460,000 grant through LIHEAP to help fund the Hand-in-Hand Program. The program — a partnership

between DCCA and Nicor Gas — offers eligible Nicor Gas customers the opportunity to earn credits toward paying off their delinquent accounts by providing volunteer service and/or participating in training and education programs. To participate, eligible customers who received a LIHEAP benefit last winter must pay any balance over \$750 owed at the time of their acceptance, plus the amount of their current energy bill. Credits may be earned at a rate equivalent to \$10 per hour, and participants may earn up to \$750 in credits. DCCA provided \$460,000 through LIHEAP to help fund the program.

The Partners for Investment and Employment (PIE) program, funded in part through a \$252,000 LIHEAP grant, will help eligible AmerenCIPS customers repay delinquent utility bills from last winter. Targeted toward the unemployed and working poor, PIE provides customers who received LIHEAP benefits last winter with an opportunity to earn credits toward their bills while working, either at their regular employment, or by seeking employment or volunteering. Unemployed customers who seek and acquire new private sector jobs would be eligible to receive \$10 per hour for every hour worked, with the money applied toward their energy bill. Customers performing volunteer work would earn credits of \$5 per hour worked toward their energy bills. The maximum credit that may be earned through either option is \$500. An innovative part of the program offers customers currently employed who received LIHEAP benefits last winter the chance to earn credits toward paying future energy bills. PIE will establish a utility savings account for future energy expenses, providing a dollar-for-dollar match for all contributions made by the customer, up to a maximum of \$250.

A \$200,000 grant through LIHEAP, matched by funds from North Shore Gas, will finance the Customer Arrearage Reduction (CARE) program. Under the program, North Shore customers who received a LIHEAP benefit last winter and have past due balances must make payments toward their past due amount. The payments will be matched on a 2 to 1 basis by North Shore and DCCA, up to a maximum of \$600. In other words, a customer with a \$900 past due amount would be able to eliminate the debt by paying \$300.

The CARE program also is being offered to customers of Peoples Energy through a partnership between DCCA, Peoples Energy and the City of Chicago. DCCA provided a \$3 million grant through LIHEAP, which is being matched by a \$2 million contribution from the City of Chicago and another \$2 million contribution from Peoples Energy, to fund the CARE program for Peoples Energy customers. In addition, a second program — the Volunteer Service and Skill Builders Program — will give eligible Peoples Energy customers the chance to earn up to \$750 in credits toward paying off their delinquent accounts by providing volunteer service and/or participating in training and education programs. DCCA provided \$1 million in LIHEAP funds to support this program.

"These programs are good examples of state government and the private sector working together," McDonough said. "By offering an incentive for LIHEAP clients to join the workforce, we're working to strengthen our overall state economy."

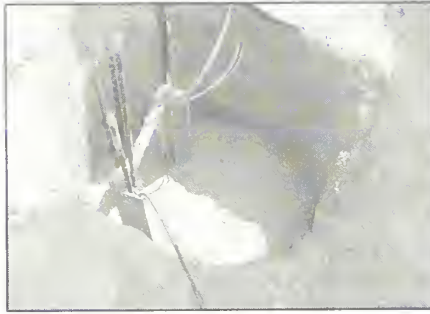
Programs began taking applications in early July. The programs will run through August 31 or when funds are exhausted, whichever occurs first.

HOSPITAL PROJECT DEMONSTRATES NEW USE FOR COAL BY-PRODUCT

Portions of a new hospital complex under construction in Marion are being built with concrete mixed with coal bottom ash — a residue produced from pulverized coal combustion (PCC) — rather than sand or fine aggregate.

The project, made possible through a \$152,828 grant from DCCA's Coal Technology Development Assistance Fund, demonstrates a new use for this coal by-product that generally is discarded, and provides an opportunity for expanded use of Illinois coal and its by-products.

According to researchers, a coal bottom ash/concrete mixture is similar to conventional concrete and cheaper to produce. In fact, by using coal bottom ash rather than fine aggregate, savings between 10 percent and 15 percent can be achieved, translating into costs approximately \$28 per cubic yard less than conventional concrete. An added benefit is that using the coal bottom ash keeps the substance out of landfills. The Marion Hospital project is utilizing the coal bottom ash/concrete mixture in drilled shafts



A mixture of coal bottom ash and concrete is being used to construct drilled shafts required to support the Medical Office Building and Power House at the new Marion Hospital. Approximately 80,000 cubic feet of concrete will be used in the project, which will utilize about 200 tons of coal bottom ash.

required to support the Medical Office Building and Power House. Approximately 80,000 cubic feet of concrete will be used in the project, which will utilize about 200 tons of coal bottom ash. The coal bottom ash is being obtained from Springfield's City Water, Light and Power, which

burns coal produced by Turriss Coal Company's Elkhart Mine in Logan County.

"As part of Governor Ryan's environmental efforts, DCCA has been charged with developing new programs and technologies to promote the recycling of a wide range of materials," said DCCA Director Pam McDonough. "This project achieves that goal and provides economic benefits for both the hospital and the utility company."

Scheduled for completion in fall 2002, the Marion hospital project is being overseen by Dr. Sanjeev Kumar of Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

"We are very excited about this project and want to thank the Ryan Administration, and the dozens of companies and individuals who have helped make it a reality," Kumar said. "Without this grant, there is no way we would have been able to proceed with this project. It will also now be easier to market and commercialize this process further."

Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs
620 East Adams Street
Springfield, Illinois 62701

DCCA NEWS is published by
the Illinois Department of
Commerce and Community
Affairs

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SPRINGFIELD, IL
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NEWS

January 2002

Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs

GOVERNOR'S 2002 SMALL BUSINESS CONFERENCE & AWARDS BANQUET SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 5-6 IN SPRINGFIELD

Mark your calendars now to attend the Governor's 2002 Small Business Conference and Awards Banquet, scheduled for February 5-6, 2002 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield.

This year's conference is designed to support small business growth and entrepreneurship in Illinois by providing information, resources and training targeted toward small businesses. Among training topics to be featured: eBusiness Strategies, Accessing Business Financing for Business Expansion and Start-Up, Tips on Thriving in Today's Economy, Low Cost Marketing Strategies, and Small Business Security.

The conference also will feature a State Agency/Association Small Business Resource

Area, including exhibits from a number of state agencies and associations. Exhibitors' representatives will be available throughout the conference to discuss the services they offer to small business owners and entrepreneurs in Illinois.

A highlight of the conference will be the Governor's Small Business Awards Banquet on February 5, celebrating the success of Illinois small businesses and entrepreneurs. Awards will be presented noting the Small Business Person of the Year, Small Business Women's Advocate of the Year, Small Business Minority Advocate, Entrepreneurial Success Award, and Young Entrepreneur.

The conference fee is \$50 per person, and includes the Governor's Small Business

Awards Banquet dinner and program. To register, download the registration form by clicking on the scroll bar on DCCA's home page on the Internet at <www.commerce.state.il.us>. Registration forms may also be requested by calling Marilyn at 217/698-7066 (TDD: 800/524-5856) or the Small Business Office at 217/524-5856 (TDD: 217/785-6055). Completed registrations may be faxed to 217/793-0041 if accompanied by a credit card number, or may be mailed with your check or money order, made payable to Governor's 2002 Small Business Conference, to: Governor's 2002 Small Business Conference, 1224 Centre West, Suite 200B, Springfield, IL 62704.

DCCA INCREASES SUPPORT FOR SMALL BUSINESS LOANS

Small business survival tips also published on-line

With the economic downturn, many small businesses face increased difficulty in securing low-interest financing. As the state's small business advocate, DCCA is stepping forward to help by increasing the amount of money it contributes to the state's popular Capital Access Program (CAP).

A CAP loan, which is made by a private lending institution, requires the borrower to make a non-refundable contribution to a reserve fund amounting to between 3 and 7 percent of the total loan amount. In the past, DCCA matched the borrower's contributions; now the agency will increase its portion of the match reserve by a quarter percent.

"The increase in DCCA's contribution means that participating banks and financial institutions will be able to help more small and

medium-sized businesses gain access to capital when they might not have qualified under conventional lending policies," said DCCA Director Pam McDonough. "The CAP program has been highly successful since its inception nearly five years ago, and we expect the changes will make the program even more popular."

Since 1997, DCCA has facilitated over \$80 million in CAP loans to more than 1,500 businesses. Those loans have helped create 4,800 new jobs and retain 9,000 workers.

Funds available through CAP can be used to obtain a line of credit for the purchase of land and buildings, machinery and equipment, and construction or renovation. Funds cannot be used for debt refinancing or contingency funding.

McDonough also encouraged small businesses to access helpful information available through the agency's Web site at <www.commerce.state.il.us> or through the First Stop Business Information Center at 800/252-2923 (TDD: 800/785-6055). DCCA administers numerous programs to help small business owners access additional capital, explore new markets, receive counseling in business planning and marketing, or gain information on how to do business with the government.

"As business people across the state adjust to the downturn in the economy, it is important to link resources together in order to provide the best opportunity for businesses to survive and prosper in difficult times," she said.

ILLINOIS GETS TOP RANKING AS A “DIGITAL STATE”

State jumps from 49th to 1st in just three years

A prestigious national study, which ranks states on their utilization of digital technologies to deliver services to citizens, has named Illinois and Kansas as the two best states in the nation.

The fourth annual Digital State Survey, conducted by the Center for Digital Government and The Progress & Freedom Foundation, found Illinois ranked first or near the top in eight digital technology sectors, including e-commerce/business regulation, taxation/revenue, management/administration, GIS/transportation, education, law enforcement and the courts, social services, and digital democracy.

The ranking pleased Governor George H. Ryan, who said the survey demonstrated that the state's investment in technology is paying off.

“This is great news for the people of Illinois,” the Governor said. “By emphasizing the use of technology and investing in it, we have fundamentally changed the way government operates and serves people.

This is the culmination of a goal that we set when I took office. I wanted Illinois to be a leader in the use of technology as well as a leader in the high-tech economy of the 21st Century. With this new ranking, we have accomplished both of those goals.”

“When you consider that in 1998 Illinois was ranked 49th, it is obvious that there is a strong commitment and dedication to technology under the current administration,” added Cathilea Robinett, executive director of the Center for Digital Government. “Illinois has exemplified all of those areas we consider to be important and really stands out as a ‘Digital State’.”

DCCA Director Pam McDonough said the agency has worked diligently to help build a high-tech infrastructure that encourages additional technology development in Illinois.

“In the last fiscal year alone, DCCA's Bureau of Technology and Industrial Competitiveness funded establishment of two Illinois Technology Enterprise

Centers, provided nearly \$5.6 million in Technology Challenge Grants to assist with development and commercialization of new technologies, participated in 42 trade shows and other events to recruit high-tech firms to Illinois, and instituted new programs, including the High Tech School-to-Work Program and the Eliminate the Digital Divide Program.”

McDonough said DCCA also continues to improve technologies that help the public access information about agency programs, such as on-line, one-on-one assistance with business start-up and tourism information, community profiles, information on available sites and buildings, and many other services.

“Illinois has made amazing progress in the past three years in the use and implementation of government technology,” said Jeffery A. Eisenach, president of The Progress & Freedom Foundation. “Illinois clearly understands the importance of technology and has committed the financial and human capital to becoming a national leader in the field.”

HILTON TO OPEN NEW RESERVATIONS CALL CENTER IN STREATOR

The Illinois hospitality industry, hard hit by the events of September 11, got some good news when Hilton Reservations Worldwide (HRW) announced plans to open a new reservations call center in Streator.

The facility, which will handle reservations for 50 hotels in the Chicago metropolitan area, will create 75 new jobs.

“This is very positive news for both the area's workforce and for the hospitality industry in general,” said DCCA Director Pam McDonough. “The hospitality sector has been negatively impacted by national events, but this is a clear indication that the industry is moving forward and preparing for stronger demand in the future.”

HRW's new reservations call center will occupy a former storefront in Streator's Westgate Plaza. DCCA's Large Business

Development Program will assist with renovations. The company also is eligible for worker training assistance through DCCA's Industrial Training Program (ITP).

Russ Olivier, Senior Vice President of Hilton Reservations Worldwide, thanked state and local officials for their assistance with the project. “The people of Streator and the State of Illinois fully embraced Hilton and have worked with us every way possible.”

HRW is owned by Hilton Hotels Corporation and Hilton International Co., which offer nearly 2,400 hotels in more than 65 countries across the globe. The new center, expected to open in the spring, will be one of six the company operates in the U.S., collectively handling some 30 million reservation calls annually.

2006 Bio International Conference Coming to Illinois

Biotechnology will be the focus when the world's largest biotechnology showcase — the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) International Conference and Exposition — comes to Chicago's McCormick Place in 2006. The conference, which last summer attracted more than 14,000 biotechnology leaders from around the globe to San Diego, displays the latest biomedical devices, pharmaceuticals, agri-science, and bio-remediation, as well as innovations in research and development.

BIO President Carl B. Feldbaum said the 2006 show will be the first held in the Midwest. "The strength of the Midwestern biotech community, which we have observed first-hand during the site selection process, really lays to rest the notion that the biotech revolution is an East Coast/West Coast phenomenon in the U.S."

DCCA Director Pam McDonough, who, along with Illinois Agriculture Director Joe Hampton made a presentation to BIO executives on Illinois' behalf during last summer's BIO Exposition, said the selection is important to the region's continued economic development.

"We are delighted to win a spot in the rotation," McDonough said. "It will create opportunities for us to promote biotechnology and agri-science, as well as help highlight all of the innovation occurring in incubators in Illinois and the Midwest."

McDonough added that 12 Midwestern states have joined Illinois in committing their support to help produce the conference and exposition in Chicago.

In recent years, Governor George H. Ryan has been joined by the General Assembly,

local leaders and private technology companies in efforts to strengthen the Illinois biotechnology industry. In particular, the Governor's VentureTECH program has funded investments in technology-driven programs, earmarking nearly \$375 million in funding for biotechnology initiatives, including funding for medical and research facilities at the University of Illinois, Northwestern University, Southern Illinois University, the Illinois Institute of Technology, the University of Chicago, Loyola University and Rush-Cohn Medical Center.

"Being selected through a competitive selection process as the host of this conference is recognition of our vigorous commitment to the biotechnology industry in Illinois," the Governor said.

THIRTY-THREE COMMUNITIES WORKING TO IMPROVE COMPETITIVENESS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

After several months of fine-tuning to make the program more user-friendly and streamlined, DCCA's Competitive Communities Initiative (CCI) is coming on strong, assisting communities throughout Illinois to assess their strengths and weaknesses, and develop local initiatives to improve their opportunities for economic development success. In fact, 33 Illinois communities are currently participating in the program, working to develop a local leadership structure and create an action plan for future economic development.

Launched six years ago, CCI is based on the belief that there is a direct link between the economic well-being of the state and the ability of its communities to effectively compete with similar communities. CCI communities work toward successfully addressing six "foundations" for growth — a skilled and adaptive workforce, access to technology and business modernization resources, access to capital for business growth and expansion, basic and advanced infrastructure, pro-competitive business policies, and social infrastructure.

CCI communities advance through five "stages" of development, moving from Stage 1 (entry level) to Stage 5 (graduate). Before

entering the program, communities must demonstrate their resolve, having organized a steering committee and secured support from local units of government and a sponsoring organization. After acceptance, communities work with DCCA CCI Specialists to develop and execute a community self-assessment. Those reaching Stage 3 have compiled the information from the self-assessment into a written Plan of Action, identifying short- and long-term goals and formal support from the local unit of government. During Stage 4, portions of the written Action Plan have been completed, and strategies for continuing to evaluate and fine-tune the plan have begun. Upon reaching Stage 5, communities demonstrate enhanced leadership skills and the ability to assess and improve upon the Foundations for Growth. At this point, they also often serve as "mentors" to other communities.

In the past, many CCI communities stalled in their efforts to progress through the stages and reach Stage 5 status. In an effort to provide more assistance to these communities, a partnership with Western Illinois University's MAPPING the Future of Your Community program has been created. The MAPPING program provides statistical information and if needed, assistance in

writing the Plan of Action. In addition, new timelines have been developed to ensure that communities work steadily toward completing the program. Workshops are held to help potential CCI communities understand the program, and a competitive application process has been initiated. Plus, Stage 5 requirements have been fine-tuned to better reflect the goals of the program.

DCCA also has initiated internal efforts to improve the program and ensure that all participating communities meet regularly with their assigned CCI Specialist to help them move successfully through the five stages.

In August, six new communities joined the CCI Program, including Round Lake Park (Lake County), Sugar Grove (Kane County), Virden (Macoupin County), Shiloh (St. Clair County), DuQuoin (Perry County) and DeSoto (Jackson County). Five communities also recently achieved Graduate (Stage 5) status, including Galesburg/Knox County, Newton/Jasper County, Cairo, St. Joseph and River Bend Growth Association.

For more information on CCI, contact Diann Reed at DCCA, phone 217/558-4223 (TDD: 217/785-6055), e-mail: dreed@commerce.state.il.us.

ILLINOIS STATE GOVERNMENT GOING “GREENER”

Acting on recommendations of the Illinois Green Government Coordinating Council, Governor George H. Ryan has issued an executive order, requiring state agencies to improve the environmental and energy efficiency of their facilities and operations.

“This executive order adopts many of the already existing successful efforts that have been put into practice by individual agencies and will increase their effectiveness through state government,” the Governor said.

The order lays out a number of best management practices to reduce waste generation and energy consumption — two

areas championed by DCCA’s Bureau of Energy and Recycling. For example, it specifies that all new and remanufactured photocopy machines and printers purchased should be capable of printing on both sides of a sheet of paper, encourages the use of electronic media to circulate memos and announcements, sets up a system promoting re-use of supplies, promotes ongoing programs to educate employees about recycling, and requires agencies to purchase electronic office equipment that has been certified as EnergyStar™ compliant whenever possible. In addition, the order requires agencies to establish goals for incorporating cost-effective lighting efficiency improvements, to set up procedures to identify

and eliminate leaks in building walls that lead to energy waste, and encourages employees to carpool and utilize E-85 ethanol blended fuel in flexible fuel vehicles within the state’s fleet.

Further, the order requires agencies undertaking remodeling and renovation projects to use carpeting with post-consumer recycled content whenever possible, as well as low-polluting paint.

Mitch Beaver, Deputy Director of DCCA’s Bureau of Energy and Recycling, and Reginald Willis, Manager of the bureau’s Recycling Division, both serve as members of the Illinois Green Government Coordinating Council.

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620 East Adams Street
Springfield, Illinois 62701

DCCA NEWS is published by
the Illinois Department of
Commerce and Community
Affairs

George H. Ryan • Governor
Pam McDonough • Director
Lynn Morford • Editor

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February 2002

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2002 GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON TOURISM CELEBRATES "THE GREATEST INDUSTRY ON EARTH"

In-depth discussions about the tourism industry and programs to restore travel and tourism will highlight the upcoming 2002 Illinois Governor's Conference on Tourism, scheduled for March 6-8 at the Hilton Chicago.

"Tourism plays an essential role in Illinois' economy, directly employing 314,700 Illinoisans and generating more than \$1 billion in tax revenues," said Governor George H. Ryan. "This year, we continue our efforts to increase travel and tourism in Illinois by investing in tourism promotion programs. This conference is an excellent opportunity for participants to hear from the top experts in the tourism industry, share information and plan for the future."

Under the theme, "The Greatest Industry on Earth," the 15th annual conference is hosted by the Governor and Visit Illinois. It kicks off on March 6 with an educational seminar featuring leading representatives from the hotel, retail and restaurant industries. Sessions also will focus on key DCCA grant and loan programs, including the Tourism Marketing Partnership Grant Program, Tourism Private Sector Grant Program, and Tourism Attraction Development Grant and Loan Program.

The conference officially opens on Thursday with the annual "State of the State of Tourism Address," featuring comments from DCCA Director Pam

McDonough; Cathy Ritter, deputy director of DCCA's Bureau of Tourism; and Joseph Hannon, managing director of the Illinois Trade Office. The three will discuss the importance of tourism as an economic development tool, and also will provide an in-depth look at domestic and international tourism.

"In the year 2000, tourism was an integral part of our Illinois economy, sustaining more than 669,000 direct and indirect jobs and providing a \$23.6 billion impact to the state," said McDonough. "Despite the growth in 2000, 2001 was a challenging year. I encourage you to join me at this year's conference where we will explore ways to increase tourist traffic to our state and grow Illinois' economy for the future."

Also on Thursday, attendees will hear from William S. Norman, president and CEO of the Travel Industry Association of America, who will explore the latest efforts to restore U.S. travel and tourism, discuss current consumer attitudes, and examine trends toward travel.

Friday's activities feature breakout sessions on such topics as packaging, online marketing and advertising, branding, sports marketing, product development, public relations, and international tourism. Attendees also will be treated to an educational and entertaining course in teamwork, risk-taking and goal-setting by Jon Wee and

Owen Morse, a two-man juggling team known as The Passing Zone.

A highlight of Friday's activities will be the annual Governor's Awards Luncheon, which recognizes outstanding tourism industry members from throughout Illinois.

Besides the educational topics, the conference also features ample opportunities for networking with old friends and new industry members. On Wednesday, attendees will visit Navy Pier for a reception, while Thursday evening will be capped by an evening "Under the Big Top of Tourism" at the hotel, featuring high-flying performances by Illinois State University's Gamma Phi Circus.

"Now, more than ever, it is time to support and grow our industry," said Marc Gordon, Visit Illinois Chairman, and president and CEO of the Illinois Hotel and Lodging Association. "The commitment from Governor Ryan and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs, Bureau of Tourism allows us to continue the conference's commitment to excellence with a top-notch lineup of speakers and sessions."

For more information or to register for the 2002 Illinois Governor's Conference on Tourism, visit <www.illinois-tourism.org> or call 800/823-1542 (TTY: 800/419-0667).

PLANNING EFFORTS INVOLVE UNIQUE STRATEGY FOR STATE AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

When Governor George H. Ryan assumed office, one of his first actions was to direct DCCA to reinstate development of a comprehensive economic development plan for Illinois. Over the past two years, the agency has worked to fulfill the Governor's directive, creating a unique strategic planning process that brings together diverse organizations to form new working relationships and collaborate on efforts to improve regional economic development.

Today, DCCA has made significant strides toward creation of a five-year plan that can serve as a blueprint for future economic development in Illinois.

The State and Regional Development Strategy has brought DCCA's planning professionals together with experts from Northern Illinois University (the lead partner), the University of Illinois-Chicago, the University of Illinois-Springfield, the University of Illinois-Urbana, Western Illinois University, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, and Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville to engage local stakeholders and organizations in planning for the future of their regions.

In the first year, more than 29,000 Illinois business owners, chamber directors, economic development officials and community leaders within 11 major economic regions of Illinois were surveyed regarding their

thoughts on development strengths and weaknesses, challenges and opportunities within their regions. To supplement the survey, 19 regional meetings were held around the state in the first year, with nearly 1,000 stakeholders attending, expanding upon the survey findings and identifying priorities for regional development. From these surveys and meetings, 15 common strategic development goals and 40 common strategic objectives for state and regional economic development were identified.

During the second year, DCCA's university partners facilitated 47 working sessions throughout Illinois, asking local leaders to brainstorm, generating specific project ideas and strategies for improving their communities and the economic climate within their regions.

These ideas are now beginning to bear fruit. For example:

- In January 2001, DCCA released a new grant initiative supporting Balanced Growth Capacity Building. Over 15 area-wide projects will share in \$750,000 in grants, with projects addressing both the major state/regional objectives for sustainable development and Governor Ryan's new Illinois Tomorrow initiative.
- In July, the Governor signed bipartisan legislation to help revive the Illinois coal

industry and strengthen Illinois' ability to provide electricity to consumers. The legislation, which provides up to \$3.5 billion in financing incentives, is the most comprehensive energy package in the nation and the most sweeping in Illinois history. Information gathered in regional meetings helped DCCA assist legislators in identifying ways to revitalize the coal industry.

- In September, DCCA issued a request for bids seeking venture capital expertise to assist in designing and creating a statewide venture capital program — a need identified in nearly every region of the state.

Local input has been critical in crafting a comprehensive economic development plan that would truly meet the needs of our diverse state. But DCCA has also been committed to bringing innovative planning processes to the table, using stakeholder management, values clarification, environmental scanning, alternative futures-based vision-setting, portfolio analysis, performance planning, and strategic issue management to maximize the value of the time given by the hundreds of volunteers who have participated in the planning process. Their assistance continues to make Illinois' planning process unique, and will be increasingly important as the process continues to craft a comprehensive economic development plan to lead Illinois forward.

GOVERNOR RYAN RETURNS TO CUBA *Trip focused on potential humanitarian medical assistance*

Saying the trip would extend "a bridge of understanding and goodwill," Governor George H. Ryan, whose historic 1999 mission to Cuba helped open the doors to trade between Illinois agribusiness and the island nation, returned to Cuba in January. This time, the Governor led a small delegation of representatives from several Illinois pharmaceutical firms, hoping to spur interest in humanitarian sales of pharmaceuticals to the island nation devastated in November by Hurricane Michelle.

In the two years since I first brought a delegation of Illinois government and business leaders here, we have worked together to solve problems that face all of us and have established strong relationships that I know will endure for years to come. And just as we have made headway in the sale of food products to Cuba, now we must make the same headway in the humanitarian sale of other products, the Governor said.

DCCA Director Pam McDonough said DCCA's Illinois Trade Office contacted Illinois pharmaceutical firms in December, after the Cuban Interest Section in Washington asked for assistance in responding to depleted medical supplies in Cuba. Firms sending representatives on the trip included Ferris Manufacturing, Burr Ridge; Medline, Mundelein; DMS Pharmaceutical, Park Ridge; JLR International, Chicago; and 21st Century Healthcare, Woodridge. The delegation traveled under the humanitarian license of the New York-based organization Americans for Humanitarian Trade with Cuba.

The trip marked the second time Illinois has stepped forward to help Cubans recover from the hurricane's devastation. In December, Governor Ryan joined officials of Decatur-based Archer Daniels Midland as the company shipped grain to Cuba to help meet the country's needs for food products — the first grain shipment to Cuba since 1962.

O'Hare Hearing Key to Illinois' Economy

—A message from DCCA Director Pam McDonough

I want to encourage Illinois business people, local officials and interested citizens to attend an upcoming Congressional hearing discussing a matter of critical economic importance to the State of Illinois — the expansion of O'Hare International Airport.

As you know, Governor George H. Ryan and Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley reached agreement last fall on an ambitious plan designed to reduce air traffic congestion at O'Hare while increasing the airport's flight capacity. This \$6.6 billion project — considered the largest economic development project in the state's history — would add approximately 195,000 more jobs to the

Illinois workforce over the next 20 years. Moreover, it would allow the state to proceed with plans to build a third Chicago airport at Peotone, and ensure that Meigs Field remains open for at least five more years, with the potential for a 20-year extension beyond that initial five-year period.

The future of this plan now rests in Washington, DC. Senator Dick Durbin has been working diligently to pass legislation that would codify the agreement in federal law. Although an initial attempt was withdrawn, the Senator has continued to line up support for the O'Hare bill. In fact, in late January, Senator Durbin joined with Senator Jay Rockefeller, chairman of the Senate

Aviation Subcommittee, and Mayor Daley to announce that the Senate will hold a hearing on the O'Hare issue. At the time that this newsletter went to press, the date had not been set; however, the hearing is expected to be held in early March.

Without expansion, O'Hare will not be able to compete with other international air hubs across the nation. This would severely constrict Illinois' ability to attract new businesses and jobs, and limit our state's growth as an international tourism and business destination.

I urge you to make every effort to attend the hearing and support the O'Hare bill.

Eighteen Named Winners of the Governor's Small Business Awards

Eighteen Illinois small business owners and business advocates were honored in early February as winners of the Governor's 2002 Small Business Awards.

"This is the third year in which we have recognized our state's outstanding entrepreneurs with these special awards," said Governor George H. Ryan. "As a former small business owner, I know the challenges they have conquered and appreciate their achievements."

The awards, presented at a gala banquet held in conjunction with the Governor's 2002 Small Business Conference, are designed to celebrate the success of Illinois small business owners, entrepreneurs and advocates, and the important contributions they make to the Illinois economy.

"Small businesses are the foundation of the Illinois economy," said DCCA Director Pam McDonough. "Highlighting the success achieved by these winners is a great way to encourage other Illinois entrepreneurs to continue striving toward their goals."

McDonough said winners were nominated based on their dedication and commitment to excellence, innovative approaches to doing business, and superior work standards.

The awards complement a similar program administered by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). All Illinois award winners are automatically sent to the SBA to be considered for its awards.

2002 Small Business Persons of the Year

- Jeanne Silver, Owner, Butterfield Bodyworks CARSTAR, Mundelein
- Kay Smith, Owner, Elegante Salons & Day Spas, Naperville
- Al Howerton, President/CEO, H & H Industries, Inc., Elmwood
- Troy Shults, Delbert Shults, Loyd Shults and Brian Shults, Owners, Shults Machine, Inc., Golconda



Governor Ryan joins employees of Carbondale-based Digitalsmiths at the State Capitol. The owners of Digitalsmiths received the Young Entrepreneur of the Year award during the Governor's 2002 Small Business Conference.

- Richard Labriola, Owner, Labriola Baking Company, Alsip
- Michael Doucleff, Owner, Duke Bakery, Alton
- Michael Woley, Owner, Baldwin Manufacturing, Inc., McLeansboro

2002 Minority Business Advocate of the Year

- Jewel Mandeville, Proprietor, Office Services Unlimited, Chicago
- E. Stephen Sims, Vice President and Managing Director, Northern Trust Company, Chicago

2002 Women Business Advocate of the Year

- Rita Kapur, President and CEO, Clean World Engineering, Ltd., Wheaton
- Joseph A. Gregoire, Regional President, National City Bank of Illinois/Michigan, Oak Brook

2002 Entrepreneurial Success Award

- Paul Schuytema, Entrepreneur, Gold Creek Technology, LLC, Monmouth
- Seattle Sutton, President, Seattle Sutton's Healthy Eating, Ottawa

2002 Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award

- Todd Clemens and Ben Weinberger, Co-Owners, Digitalsmiths, Inc., Carbondale

DCCA Helps Develop Rockford Shopping Center; Revitalize Neighborhood

Efforts to revitalize Rockford's Southwest Side got a major boost when DCCA Director Pam McDonough announced the award of a \$500,000 Linked Development Program grant to the Rockford Local Development Corporation (RLDC).

The funds will be used, along with capital from the City of Rockford, to develop a shopping center, anchored by a full-service grocery store, on South Main Street.

"It is the responsibility of state and municipal government to foster a positive quality of life for the people of Illinois, and this is a

perfect example of that philosophy in action," said McDonough. "In addition to creating jobs for city residents and providing much needed resources for an underserved community, this project holds the promise of bringing stability and further economic development growth to the area."

McDonough thanked Rockford Mayor Doug Scott, local development officials, and State Senator Dave Syverson for their diligence in bringing the project to the community. Syverson linked the local officials with DCCA to direct state funds to the project.

DCCA's Linked Development Program provides grants to community organizations, not-for-profit organizations and units of local government for projects that increase economic development in economically depressed areas.

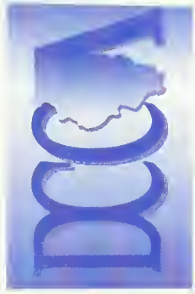
The City of Rockford issued \$4 million in bonds to help finance the project, while the RLDC has worked to acquire land, relocate residents and demolish existing structures at the site. Groundbreaking for the new shopping center is slated for spring 2002, with completion expected in about a year.

Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs
620 East Adams Street
Springfield, Illinois 62701

DCCA NEWS is published by
the Illinois Department of
Commerce and Community
Affairs

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NEWS

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March 2002

Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs

ILLINOIS WINS TOP RANKING AS BEST STATE FOR BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Chicago, Peru, Danville and Effingham also cited for development success

It's official — Illinois is the top state in the nation for business development.

According to the annual competition by *Site Selection* magazine, Illinois excels in 10 areas closely linked to economic development success. And that excellence has won Illinois the magazine's coveted Governor's Cup, awarded to the top state for business development.

"It is an honor for Illinois to be named by *Site Selection* magazine as the top state in America for business development in 2001," said Governor George H. Ryan. "Site Selection's 2001 state rankings clearly show that Illinois' efforts to attract new businesses and jobs have succeeded. I am proud of the ongoing partnership between the public and private sector in improving our business climate and believe the success we have achieved is the result of that teamwork."

DCCA Director Pam McDonough credited the Governor's commitment to economic development — particularly new tools enacted during his administration that have helped push Illinois to the forefront in the competition for businesses and jobs.

"The success we had in creating new jobs in 2001 is the result of aggressive economic development initiatives passed during Governor Ryan's administration," McDonough said. "Programs such as Illinois FIRST, EDGE (Economic Development for a Growing Economy), the Corporate Headquarters Relocation Act and Prime Sites have allowed our state to compete and win new business development projects."

Georgia-based *Site Selection*, published by Conway Data, ranked states using 10 criteria designed to gauge business expansion success during the previous calendar year. The criteria included such measures as total new and expanded facilities, total capital investment in new and expanded facilities, and total new jobs created at new and expanded facilities (all based on facilities per 1 million population); total actual number of new and expanded facilities;



Governor George H. Ryan holds the Governor's Cup as *Site Selection* Editor Mark Arend and DCCA Director Pam McDonough look on. Arend presented the cup to the Governor during a news conference announcing Illinois' selection as the top state for business development during 2001.

percentage growth in new and expanded facilities over the previous year; a three-year growth average in new and expanded facilities; the state's ranking in *Site Selection's* annual Business Climate Survey; the number of top 100 metro areas in the annual ranking of top metros; the number of top 100 small towns in the annual ranking of small towns; and the number of 100-plus job projects per 1 million population during the year. Each of the 10 criteria counted 10 percent toward the state's overall score.

Mark Arend, editor of *Site Selection*, said the 10-point process was instituted this year to ensure a more balanced competition.

"The result is a mechanism that levels the playing field between heavily populated, industrial states and states with fewer population centers but a healthy run of new or expanded facility projects to their credit," Arend said.

Arend presented Governor Ryan with the Governor's Cup during a news conference held in February at the new global headquarters of The Boeing Company in Chicago. Boeing, which chose the city over Dallas and Denver after an exhaustive search, was one of Illinois' major economic development "wins" during 2001.

Boeing Chairman and CEO Phil Condit said moving to Illinois was "an integral part of our business strategy to transform Boeing into a broad-based, global enterprise."

McDonough also cited numerous other major development projects that chose Illinois during 2001, among them:

- ABN AMRO, constructing a technology center in Chicago expected to create 500 jobs and retain 1,500 jobs
- Procter & Gamble, leasing an 800,000 square-foot warehouse and distribution facility in Pontoon Beach, creating 130 jobs
- Authentify, setting up a new headquarters in Chicago, creating 80 jobs
- Land O' Frost, undertaking a \$13 million expansion of its Lansing plant that will create 25 jobs and retain 250 jobs
- North American Lighting, constructing a 150,000 square-foot plant in Paris that will employ 300
- Eagle Wings Industries, creating 50 new jobs in Olney
- NDK America, Inc., building a manufacturing, R&D, warehousing and office facility in Belvidere that will create 50 jobs
- American Trans Air, choosing Chicago for its \$98 million training center
- Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, selecting Effingham for its first manufacturing facility outside North Carolina — creating 100 jobs

"Despite an economic downturn last year, we saw plant expansions and new businesses continue to locate in Illinois," she said.

Besides selecting Illinois for the Governor's Cup, *Site Selection* also named Chicago as 2001's top metropolitan area for new and expanded facilities, up from second place last year. Three other Illinois communities — Peru, Danville and Effingham — ranked among the top 20 small towns in the nation for corporate facilities.

GOVERNOR PROPOSES \$52.8 BILLION BUDGET

DCCA FY03 budget projected at \$2.18 billion

On February 20, Governor George H. Ryan stepped before a joint session of the Illinois Legislature to deliver his Fiscal Year 2003 budget proposal — a \$52.8 billion blueprint that includes \$2.18 billion in appropriations for the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs (DCCA).

“Today, I can report to you that the State of Illinois remains strong,” Ryan said. “The \$52.8 billion budget that I present to you today fulfills all of the many goals that we — together — set for Illinois four years ago. This budget is lean, but fair. This budget is balanced. And it contains no tax increases.”

DCCA Director Pam McDonough said the Governor’s proposed DCCA budget reaffirms his Administration’s commitment to economic development.

“Governor Ryan recognizes that in tough times, it becomes more important than ever for state government to invest in building strong businesses and communities, and keeping workers’ skills at the cutting edge,” McDonough said. “This proposal gives DCCA the tools we need to do the job and keep our state moving forward.”

DCCA’s budget plan proposes \$177.4 million for the Bureau of Business Development — the state’s “sales force” — that works to attract new companies and help existing companies prosper in Illinois. This includes \$12 million for the Prime Sites program, helping fund infrastructure improvements tied to future job creation and retention at sites in existing urban or industrial areas. It also

includes \$2.25 million to continue the successful Capital Access and Participation Loan programs, administered by the bureau’s Small Business Division.

Approximately \$123.5 million is proposed to fund programs administered through the Bureau of Technology and Industrial Competitiveness. Included is \$5 million from the new Digital Divide Elimination Fund, to increase access to computers and telecommunications technology for residents in low-income communities, as well as \$25.1 million in funding for DCCA’s Industrial Training Program (ITP) to help Illinois companies train more than 89,000 workers.

Funding also is proposed for numerous key projects demonstrating the Governor’s commitment to technology advancement and development, including \$5.0 million for the Advanced Research Building at the University of Chicago; \$13.0 million for the Rare Isotope Accelerator at Argonne National Laboratory, as well as \$17.0 million for the nanotechnology research institute at Argonne; \$5.0 million for the Biomedical Research Building at the Illinois Institute of Technology; and \$15.0 million for a grant to Rush Presbyterian St. Luke’s Medical Center for the Cohn Bio-Medical Research Building.

To help local governments in the state enhance their strengths and competitiveness, the blueprint proposes \$623 million in funding, including federal funds for such programs as the Community Development Assistance Program (CDAP) that helps small

communities address water and sewer needs, and the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, subsidizing winter energy costs for low-income Illinoisans.

Tourism programs, hard hit by the September 11 attacks, would receive \$60 million to help attract visitors to the state. The Illinois Trade Office, which promotes international investment in Illinois, helps Illinois companies explore export opportunities, and works to attract foreign visitors to the state, would receive a \$5.7 million appropriation.

The budget plan includes \$6 million in new appropriations from the Coal Development Fund to develop and commercialize new coal utilization techniques, and \$2.4 million in new funds for the Coal Technology Development Assistance Fund, fostering increased productivity and awareness of the Illinois coal industry. Efforts to continue development of alternative energy resources, such as wind, solar and biomass power, would also be funded through a \$10 million appropriation.

In proposing the Fiscal Year 2003 budget plan, the Governor noted that his plan is both balanced and realistic, reflecting a four-year average growth in state spending of 3.5 percent — a small annual increase compared to the growth in the economy during the same period.

“I want to make it clear to everyone in Illinois that this government has not been spending wildly. We have kept our spending under control,” Ryan said.

State, Deere Partner to test Ethanol-Blend Diesel Fuel

A new partnership between the State of Illinois and Moline-based Deere and Company promises to further research into the future use of ethanol-blended diesel fuels.

The two-year test project, being funded through a \$500,000 grant through DCCA's Alternative Energy Research, Development and Demonstration Program, will demonstrate the use of "E-Diesel" fuels in industrial diesel engines manufactured by Deere. Tests

will involve laboratory research, emission testing, field trials and demonstrations throughout the country using Deere's 4.5-liter, 8.1-liter, and 12-liter diesel engines, which are used to power off-highway Deere equipment ranging from skid steers, to tractors and combines.

"This is our most extensive ethanol project to date," said DCCA Director Pam McDonough. "John Deere is one of the most respected names in

agriculture, and we are proud to work with the company to test and demonstrate the use of E-Diesel in several product lines. The testing done now will have long-term benefits for Illinois agriculture and the environment."

The partnership was announced at the 2002 Commodity Classic in Nashville, sponsored by the National Corn Growers Association and the American Soybean Association.

COMPANIES CHOOSING ILLINOIS *Jacksonville, Paxton selected for new facilities*

Illinois' strengths as a prime business location continue to pay dividends, as growing companies choose Illinois locations for their business growth. Two recent announcements in Paxton and Jacksonville illustrate the state's success.

Micropack Corporation, a private and custom-label bottler of purified water, chose Paxton for its fourth U.S. bottling facility. The plant, which is expected to create 45 jobs over the next two years, will be located in an existing building in the community — a fact that pleased DCCA Director Pam McDonough.

"We are very pleased that Micropack Corporation has chosen to establish its first Midwest operation in Illinois," McDonough said. "What's also important with this project is that the new plant will occupy an already existing building and put it back into productive service."

McDonough said Micropack will benefit from a \$550,000 Community

Development Assistance Program (CDAP) grant provided to the City of Paxton. The city will use the grant to provide a loan to the company that will be used to purchase machinery and equipment. Operations at the new Paxton plant are expected to include the blow-molding of PET-type plastic bottles, and the purification and filling of the bottles.

"Paxton has benefited greatly in the last few years from assistance programs provided by the State of Illinois," said Paxton Mayor James Kingston. "Our infrastructure advantages, an ideal locale to draw a work force from a wide area, transportation access, and a working relationship with DCCA which fosters an environment for growth, has led to Paxton becoming home to several firms with national ties and markets. Governor George Ryan and his staff are instrumental in Paxton's growth."

"The hard work and cooperation of local and state officials helped make

our decision to locate in Paxton an easy one," added company CEO James M. Morgan.

Jacksonville economic development officials also had reasons to celebrate as Wausau Supply Company, a supplier of wholesale building materials, chose the city for a new \$800,000 warehouse.

The 40,000 square-foot warehouse — the company's second in Illinois — will employ six people initially with ample room for future expansion. It will be located within Jacksonville's Enterprise Zone, providing tax benefits to the company.

Governor George H. Ryan said local municipalities, working with the state, can provide the resources necessary to create new jobs. "These partnerships are crucial to continued economic development in Illinois, and my administration stands ready to assist our local partners whenever possible."

Grants Help 95 Communities Address Water & Sewer Problems

Ninety-five Illinois villages, cities, counties and townships will be able to undertake needed improvements to public water and sewer systems, thanks to \$23.5 million in grants awarded through the federally funded Community Development Assistance Program (CDAP) Public Facilities grant component, administered by DCCA.

"Communities are often restricted in their ability to develop both residentially and commercially due to water and sewer issues," said DCCA Director Pam McDonough. "These grants make it possible to not only address important quality of life issues for residents, but also provide necessary infrastructure that could lead to future business development."

McDonough said a project in Crawford County is an example. The Trimble Water District near Robinson has experienced problems due to extremely low water pressure. DCCA awarded

a \$400,000 grant to the county, which, combined with \$223,000 borrowed by the water district, will enable construction of a new 50,000-gallon water tower and other improvements designed to alleviate the water pressure difficulties.

Under the highly competitive program, grants are awarded to communities with populations of 50,000 or less that are not located within one of the eight urban counties within Illinois that receive funds directly from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Projects must address threats to public health and safety, and at least 51 percent of the benefit must be provided to people of low-to-moderate income.

"Government has a duty to improve the quality of life for its residents, and these grants will do just that," said Governor George H. Ryan.

Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs
620 East Adams Street
Springfield, Illinois 62701

DCCA NEWS is published by
the Illinois Department of
Commerce and Community
Affairs

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April 2002

Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs

BUSINESSES EXPANDING IN ILLINOIS

Illinois businesses continue to express their confidence in the state, choosing Illinois as the location for expansion projects.

During March, companies ranging from a 65-year-old family-owned aviation business in Moline, to an internationally recognized manufacturer of paper products in Shelbyville, announced growth plans, assisted by help from the Department of Commerce and Community Affairs (DCCA).

"As a result of the many economic development tools Governor Ryan and the General Assembly have put in place, we can be innovative when trying to solve business issues," said DCCA Director Pam McDonough. She also congratulated local officials, maintaining that economic development begins at the local level.

For example, Elliott Aviation, with a 65-year history in Moline, broke ground on a 48,000 square-foot aircraft paint and completions center. The state-of-the-art facility will feature a 5,600 square-foot down-draft paint bay capable of handling light to medium jet aircraft. Specialized stripping agents will allow for an environmentally friendly operation and full compliance with all federal and state EPA requirements.

Wynn Elliott, company president, said, "This facility is the next major piece towards our goal of becoming

a major completions center. The state-of-the-art design will expand our service offerings and provide up to 68 highly skilled jobs over the next 10 years."

Elliott Aviation is eligible for workforce training grants through DCCA's Industrial Training Program (ITP), as well as tax credits through the Economic Development for a Growing Economy (EDGE) program. The company also will benefit from its location in an Enterprise Zone.

Also eligible for ITP assistance are PTC Alliance, a Fairbury auto parts manufacturer; and International Paper's Foodservice Business in Shelbyville.

PTC Alliance, the Fairbury area's largest employer, will retain 125 jobs in Fairbury, thanks to infrastructure improvements made possible with a \$500,000 grant from DCCA's Business Development Public Infrastructure Program.

PTC Alliance, which operates 12 plants in North America, needed to upgrade its infrastructure to continue to operate in Fairbury. The DCCA assistance will enable the company to hook into city water and sewer systems.

"This grant will provide the infrastructure needed to ensure continued investment in operations at Fairbury. We wish to thank the State

of Illinois and the City of Fairbury for their help in this effort," said Richard Huemme, CEO of PTC Alliance.

Huemme's sentiments were echoed by Paul Glenney, Shelbyville facility manager for International Paper. "We are thrilled with the support we have gotten from the Governor's Office and DCCA. This type of partnership benefits the business, the state and the dedicated workforce we have at Shelbyville," Glenney said.

International Paper has renovated and started a new thermoformer production line that is expected to create more than 40 new jobs and retain nearly 200 current positions at its Shelbyville plant. In addition to the ITP assistance, the company also is eligible to apply for tax credits through the EDGE program.

International Paper's facility, which started production in 1974 with an initial workforce of 10 people, has expanded to more than 1,000 employees. The plant produces paper and plastic cups, food containers, and chicken and popcorn buckets with plastic lids. Its major customers include McDonald's, Wendy's, Taco Bell, Dairy Queen and Arby's, among others.

"This is an example of why Illinois was recognized by *Site Selection* magazine as the top state in the nation for business development in 2001," said Governor Ryan.



TECH DAY CELEBRATES ILLINOIS' TECHNOLOGY LEADERSHIP, INNOVATION

Tech Day, held at the Illinois State Capitol in Springfield on April 3, provided an opportunity to showcase Illinois' continuing efforts to support technology through innovative programs designed to help train tomorrow's technology workers, improve technology access for residents in low-income communities, and expand the state's already impressive technology base.

Nearly 30 Illinois companies and organizations attended the day's events, highlighted by presentations on nanotechnology, as well as a look at economic forecasts and an update on federal technology funding programs.

Another highlight was the announcement of grants totaling approximately \$6.8 million to support Illinois' technology infrastructure, workforce and local communities. The grants included more than \$1.1 million in High Technology School-to-Work Program grants administered by DCCA's Bureau of Technology and Industrial Competitiveness; \$500,000 for grants through the Eliminate the Digital Divide program, also administered by the bureau; and two \$2 million grants to Argonne National Laboratory for work on the Rare Isotope Accelerator (RIA) Science Center and the Center for Nanoscale Materials (CNM).

"The recipients of these grants are broad based, from communities where access to technology is limited, to the most advanced laboratories in the world," said Governor George H. Ryan. "It's crucial for the state to support not only the centers which will yield the next generation of technological innovations, but also the classrooms where the next generation of technology and business leaders are developing."

High Technology School-to-Work grants were awarded to the Johnson County Chamber of Commerce, John Deere Harvester Works, Packer Engineering Company, the Grundy County Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the Three Rivers Manufacturing Association. The grants will enable the companies and organizations to work with local educational institutions to offer students the opportunity to combine traditional classroom instruction with real-life learning in on-the-job settings.

DCCA Director Pam McDonough said the program is designed to help increase the number of students who enter occupations requiring advanced skills in the areas of science, mathematics and advanced technology. She pointed out that in its first year, the program already has witnessed a number of success stories. An example is MetalDyne Networks, a Web development partnership started by students participating in a school-to-work partnership between Wheaton Community Unit District 200, the Naperville Chamber of Commerce and TeraSys. MetalDyne Networks developed the official Web pages for this year's Tech Day celebration.



DCCA Director Pam McDonough congratulated students from MetalDyne Networks during Tech Day ceremony at the Illinois State Capitol.

"Today's workplace is more complex and technically oriented than ever before," said McDonough. The fact that some of these students have already started their own business, and are contributing to our Tech Day events and to their community, proves that this kind of experience is a key ingredient in the development of our future workforce."

Twelve Eliminate the Digital Divide grants were awarded to organizations from Chicago, Chicago Heights, Harvey, Quincy and Cairo. The program provides resources to organizations to help plan, establish, administer and expand Community Technology Centers (CTCs) to serve residents in many low-income communities in Illinois.

Governor Ryan also announced that Midwest Technology Access Group (MTAG) will receive nearly \$1.2 million to assist community organizations and technology centers in closing the digital divide.

The grants to Argonne National Laboratory are intended to spur future technological development at the Illinois facility. The \$2 million grant toward constructing the RIA Center signals the state's desire to win the competition for the U.S. Department of Energy's proposed \$850 million Rare Isotope Accelerator. Locating the facility here could add another \$200 million annually to the Illinois economy and open new opportunities to Illinois scientists and students. The other \$2 million grant would assist with the design phase for the Center for Nanoscale Materials, one of the five such research centers proposed by the U.S. Department of Energy.

Argonne Director Hermann Gruner was pleased. "Argonne's continuing partnership with the State of Illinois is contributing not only to the advancement of knowledge, but to the economic growth of Illinois and the entire nation," he said.

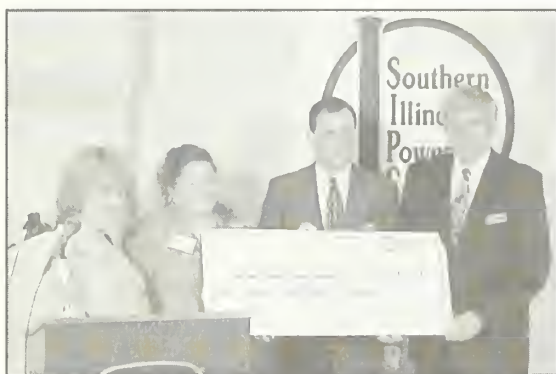
STATE GRANT HELPS CREATE NEW COAL MINING JOBS

Southern Illinois project also will create hundreds of construction and support jobs

DCCA's Coal Infrastructure Program continues to have a substantial impact in reviving the Illinois coal industry.

The latest example is an \$800,000 Coal Infrastructure Program grant which, combined with \$6 million in Coal and Energy Development Bond Funds, will help Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC) construct a cleaner-burning coal-fired boiler at its Marion Power Plant. The \$103.7 million project is expected to create more than 1,600 construction and support jobs, and result in more than 250 jobs for coal miners, once operational.

SIPC, a generation and transmission cooperative, is owned and governed by six member distribution cooperatives and is a major contributor to the Southern Illinois economy. Through the project, a circulating fluidized bed (CFB) boiler will replace the boilers, electrostatic precipitators, stacks and coal silos on Marion Units 1, 2 and 3. The CFB is expected to produce sufficient steam to serve three existing steam turbines with a total generating capacity of 120 megawatts of power, bringing the plant's total coal fired generating capacity to 310 megawatts.



DCCA Director Pam McDonough presented officials of Southern Illinois Power Cooperative with a ceremonial check representing state assistance to help SIPC construct a cleaner-burning coal fired boiler at its Marion Power Plant.

The CFB will burn bituminous coal and bituminous coal refuse from Southern Illinois, supplemented occasionally with small amounts of petroleum coke, sub-bituminous coal, tire-derived fuel, waste oil and wood chips. The retrofit could boost SIPC's consumption of Illinois coal by 40 to 50 percent over the 805,000 tons of Illinois coal generally used by the cooperative. At the same time, it is expected to reduce emissions of sulfur dioxide by 74 percent and nitrogen oxide by 68 percent.

"SIPC's commitment to use new technology to generate electricity from Illinois coal is right in line with Governor Ryan's energy policy," said DCCA Director Pam McDonough. "The state's support for this project underscores the Governor's commitment to increase the use of Illinois coal while reducing pollution."

The project is the latest to utilize CFB technology promoted through the state's Coal Demonstration Program, also administered by DCCA. For more than 20 years, the state has worked to promote the technology, which is seen as one of the best suited technologies for burning Illinois' high-sulfur coal efficiently and cleanly. In fact, the state has helped finance many of the first CFB units built in Illinois, including a recent retrofit of the campus steam plant at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

ILLINOIS LAUNCHES "POWER TO COMPETE" CAMPAIGN

Saying the coal incentive program signed last year "sends a clear message to developers that we mean business in Illinois," Governor George H. Ryan has launched "Power to Compete," a direct-to-business marketing campaign aimed at encouraging electric power executives to look toward Illinois when considering new development.

"We have the tools to compete for a new generation of clean and efficient power plants — facilities that will enhance our state's own energy security and, quite possibly, make us an energy production center for the entire central United States," the Governor said.

"Power to Compete" will utilize print advertising and trade show materials to highlight the benefits of building new electric plants, powered with Illinois coal, in Illinois. Under the 2001 Illinois Coal Revival Initiative, such developments could qualify for tax and financial incentives from the state. The basic qualification is that a plant has a rated capacity of 400 megawatts and supports 150 Illinois coal mining jobs.

"As our campaign notes, only Illinois combines the aggressive development incentives and vast, affordable coal resources that can make new coal-fired electric generation a major part of our nation's energy future," said DCCA Director Pam McDonough.

McDonough said dozens of development prospects have surfaced since the initiative became law last June. Two companies — Peabody Energy of St. Louis and Midwest Generation, a division of Mission Energy — already have announced intentions to undertake Illinois projects. Peabody plans to build a 1,500 megawatt state-of-the-art coal plant in southwestern Washington County, while Midwest Generation has filed for an air quality permit to build 1,000 megawatts of new coal-fired generating at its Collins Station near Morris.

"These are hugely expensive, complex undertakings, and we are pleased that major firms like Peabody and Midwest Generation have taken the lead in Illinois," McDonough said.

"We see the Illinois Coal Revival Initiative as our bridge to the future, and the word has certainly gotten out that Illinois is serious about coal," added Taylor Pensoneau, president of the Illinois Coal Association. "At the same time, the power industry is still sorting through some complex and far-reaching issues over plant sites and fuel sources. While that is taking place, I see DCCA's 'Power to Compete' campaign as an essential ingredient in our strategy to bring new power generators to Illinois."

INNOVATIVE BUSINESS COMPLEX MOVES FORWARD WITH HELP FROM DCCA

An innovative business complex, being carved out of the former Columbia Quarry site in Valmeyer, has its first tenant, thanks in part to infrastructure improvements made possible with assistance from DCCA.

Cold Storage, Inc., a new public refrigerated warehouse and logistics business, is expected to enter into a lease to create a 101,000 square foot temperature controlled warehouse facility in the Rock City Business Complex — a development located within approximately 6 million square feet of underground limestone mine area at Valmeyer. The warehouse is slated to create 60 full-time jobs within two years.

"DCCA staff have been working for the last couple of years with the village to accomplish a workable financial structure for infrastructure improvements at the Rock City Business Complex," said DCCA Director Pam McDonough. "This project demonstrates that when units of government work together, significant progress can be made to develop a plan like this that represents a significant potential revenue stream for the Village of Valmeyer and its residents."

McDonough said DCCA will provide a \$500,000 grant through the Community Development Assistance Program (CDAP) to assist with necessary infrastructure improvements, including lighting, demolition and cleanup, hanging assemblies for utilities, and portal and

roof stabilization. DCCA also will provide a \$420,000 grant through the Business Development Public Infrastructure Program to help fund security and fencing, and portal and roof stabilization.

The DCCA grants supplement a \$1.9 million grant to the Village of Valmeyer from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) for infrastructure improvements, as well as \$384,000 in Economic Development Program funds from the Illinois Department of Transportation to assist with road construction at the site.

"The Rock City Business Complex project is an excellent example of what local-state-federal economic development projects can achieve," said EDA Midwest Regional Director C. Robert Sawyer. "The innovative Rock City Business Complex promises to put Valmeyer on a solid economic foundation."

The Village of Valmeyer, devastated by the Mississippi River flood of 1993, acquired the quarry site following the flood. Village President Dennis Schreder said village officials have always felt the site had tremendous potential for alternative business uses. Village officials hope the refrigerated warehouse will open the doors to additional commercial activity at the former quarry, including industrial, retail and office space.

Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs
620 East Adams Street
Springfield, Illinois 62701

DCCA NEWS is published by
the Illinois Department of
Commerce and Community
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DCCA LAUNCHES NEW WEB SITE

DCCA has a new look, a new name and new information on the World Wide Web.

illinoisbiz.biz is designed to provide easy, fast access to the information that businesses, communities and residents need. From the new, easily-remembered business-oriented domain name, to a user-friendly design that helps you navigate quickly, DCCA has worked to make **illinoisbiz.biz** a one-stop tool for economic development information.

illinoisbiz.biz is full of news and information about DCCA's programs, as well as local and regional developments of interest. The new "Spotlights" section highlights DCCA's latest programs, services and success stories, and is just one click away from any location on the site. A new agency-wide map enables users to quickly locate the various partners that administer economic development programs at the local level. Users can review news releases and find this newsletter on-line under the "News" section. Plus, the site incorporates a new navigational bar that helps track where you've visited and return with just one click.

For those unfamiliar with DCCA, a new "Customer Tool Bar" will help them quickly find the information



they're looking for. Those who regularly work with the various DCCA bureaus will appreciate the new color-coded system that helps quickly distinguish programs bureau by bureau. Whether its business information, or information about films, tourism, community development, technology, energy or recycling, **illinoisbiz.biz** will make it easy for users to find answers to a wide array of questions.

Web users demand fresh, up-to-date information, and **illinoisbiz.biz** is designed to constantly bring the latest

information to your desktop. For example, our new Statewide Sites and Buildings link will be regularly updated to provide access to more than 6,000 available Illinois commercial and industrial sites, including more than 3,200 in northeastern Illinois — all in a searchable database.

DCCA understands that the needs of business are constantly changing. **illinoisbiz.biz** is designed to change with the times and deliver the most information in the most effective and efficient manner.

STATE HELPS RETAIN, EXPAND ILLINOIS BUSINESSES

Companies are expanding in Rantoul and Greenup, and a North Utica firm will retain its operations in LaSalle County, thanks to assistance provided through the Department of Commerce and Community Affairs (DCCA).

EVAPCO, Inc., a manufacturer of heat transfer equipment for the refrigeration, air conditioning and industrial cooling markets, is expanding its Greenup facility by 60,000 square feet. The community will receive a \$440,000 grant through the federally funded Community Development Assistance Program (CDAP), which will be loaned to EVAPCO to acquire equipment needed in the expansion effort. The project is expected to result in the creation of 50 new jobs over the next two years at the plant, which currently employs more than 180 workers.

"This is great news for Greenup, Cumberland County, and East Central Illinois," said Greenup Mayor Randal Callahan. "This \$2.3 million investment, along with the 50 new jobs that

went with it, could have easily gone to another state, but thanks to a lot of hard work by state and local organizations, EVAPCO's expanding right here in Greenup."

Another firm, Cingular Wireless, is expanding its Rantoul facility — a project expected to create 100 new jobs. Governor George H. Ryan pointed out that the expansion is another example of Illinois' leadership in the telecommunications industry.

"In addition to being a transportation hub for the nation, Illinois' role as a center for telecommunications continues to grow, and that means more job opportunities for Illinois residents," the Governor said.

DCCA Director Pam McDonough said Cingular Wireless is eligible for tax credits through the Economic Development for a Growing Economy (EDGE) program, as well as training assistance through the Industrial Training Program (ITP), both administered by DCCA.

McDonough said DCCA also provided a \$175,000 grant to the Village of North Utica for a bridge replacement project necessary to maintain the long-term viability of nearby Unimin Corporation. The grant, awarded through DCCA's Business Development Public Infrastructure Program, will match funds provided by LaSalle County to enable replacement of a deteriorating bridge that serves as a primary entrance to Unimin's local plant. The company, which mines and processes silica to exacting standards of the glass manufacturing industry, employs 42 people at the facility and is an important contributor to the local economy.

"This grant helps North Utica and LaSalle County keep a major employer in the area and local people working," McDonough said. "This project is another example of how the Ryan administration works closely with local communities to attract and retain companies and jobs."

Infrastructure Grants Leverage Private Investment; Keep Illinois Coal Industry Growing

Governor George H. Ryan recently announced more than \$14 million in Coal Infrastructure Grants to help improve coal production and transportation systems in Illinois.

"The Illinois Coal Infrastructure Program has been key to bringing the latest technology to the Illinois coal industry and making Illinois coal cleaner and more affordable to use," the Governor said. "This program has created and saved many jobs in the Illinois coal industry. It has sustained our coal operations

through a difficult period and encouraged them to make those investments necessary to ensure a future for coal mining in Illinois."

The grants, administered by DCCA's Office of Coal Development, will leverage approximately \$130 million in private investment for equipment upgrades, facility expansions, road improvements and other infrastructure investments targeted at improving the quality of Illinois coal and making Illinois producers more productive and cost competitive.

"The people who produce, transport and burn Illinois coal are tough and resilient and have overcome great obstacles," said DCCA Director Pam McDonough. "Their response to this program has been more enthusiastic with each passing year. With each project, we are improving the marketability of Illinois coal and the competitive position of our industry."

Since its launch in 1996, the program has provided more than \$62 million to assist 180 projects.

State Grants Encourage Recycling

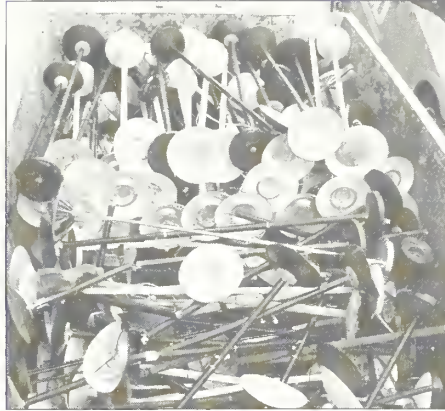
During Earth Week, DCCA's Bureau of Energy and Recycling awarded numerous grants designed to help encourage recycling and grow the recycling industry in Illinois.

A \$250,000 grant through DCCA's Recycling Market Development Program will help United Recycling Industries (URI) upgrade its facility in West Chicago. The \$3.5 million project was integral to the company's ability to expand its consumer electronics recycling business.

"Consumer electronics, such as computers and monitors, are the fastest growing segment in municipal solid waste; yet often they contain materials considered harmful to the environment," said DCCA Director Pam McDonough. "We can properly address these issues in Illinois by encouraging companies like United Recycling Industries to make capital investments at their facilities, thereby developing and expanding recycling markets in our state."

URI also received a \$75,000 grant through DCCA's Technologies and Practices Demonstration Program to demanufacture and recycle cathode ray tubes — one of six grants awarded recently under the program. Other organizations receiving grants included BLH Computers, Inc. of Springfield; Computer Renaissance, Bloomington; PC Rebuilders, Chicago; System Service International, Inc., Lombard; and the United Cerebral Palsy Association (UCP) of Greater Chicago. The DCCA program supports development of innovative measures that target recycling of non-conventional materials, such as

white goods, food waste, consumer electronics and carpet.



Peoria-area residents turned out in force to recycle their old lamps as part of the "Great Torchere Turn-In." Those who recycled a halogen torchiere were able to purchase a new energy-efficient model at a discount, during a promotion sponsored by DCCA and the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance.

DCCA's efforts also will help expand recycling and recycling education programs in Illinois schools. More than 24,000 students at 56 Illinois schools in 13 counties can start or expand their recycling efforts, thanks to grants awarded through DCCA's Illinois School Recycling and Waste Reduction Grant Program and announced during Earth Week. Grants totaling \$92,759 will assist the schools in collecting recyclables, purchasing equipment and containers to store recycled materials, and paying for educational resources related to recycling and waste reduction. Over the past decade, more than 1,800 schools have received grant funds through the program.

RECYCLING – IT'S GOOD FOR ILLINOIS' ECONOMY

Few people would argue the fact that recycling is good for the environment. But a recent study, commissioned by the Department of Commerce and Community Affairs Bureau of Energy and Recycling, also shows that recycling is good for the Illinois economy; in fact, recycling is a \$12.2 billion industry in Illinois!

According to the study, conducted by R. W. Beck, Inc. as part of a nationwide study to measure the economic impacts of recycling, Illinois is home to more than 2,400 recycling and reuse establishments, contributing \$269 million annually in state and local tax revenues. Approximately 1.9 percent of the Illinois gross state product is attributable to the recycling and reuse industry. Furthermore, the Illinois recycling industry employs more than 56,000 workers.

"The recycling industry is a diverse combination of long-established recycling businesses, such as paper and steel making, coupled with innovative new enterprises such as manufacturing recycled rubber products from scrap tires and recycling consumer electronics," said DCCA Director Pam McDonough. "The future of recycling depends on consumers purchasing recycled products, the development of new technologies, and the commitment by manufacturers to use recycled commodities as feedstock."

McDonough noted that DCCA administers a number of programs targeted at strengthening the Illinois recycling industry. Funded through a state fund established under the Solid Waste Management Act that was adopted in 1986, the programs have helped DCCA award more than \$77 million to encourage the industry's growth in Illinois.

GRANTS HELP COMBAT HOMELESSNESS

Sixty-five not-for-profit organizations in communities across the state will receive grants to help them provide emergency assistance to the homeless, under a program administered by DCCA.

The grants, totaling \$2.25 million, were awarded by Governor George H. Ryan, who said they will help the network of organizations provide services to homeless people, not just with temporary shelter, but also in accessing services that can help them move toward self-sufficiency.

Funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the grants were awarded competitively to not-for-profit organizations outside Cook County, as well as units of local government seeking grants on behalf of such organizations. The grants were awarded based on clear need, and immediate ability to use the grant and complement existing homeless services. The maximum grant was \$75,000, which had to be matched with an equal amount from other sources.

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ICC Reminds Illinois Business Owners to Know Their Electric Service Choice Options

The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) is reminding Illinois business owners, who have all been eligible for electric service choice since December 2000, to get informed and know their options. The agency is continuing its statewide **Plug in Illinois** education campaign and advancing the effort to reach residential consumers, who become eligible for choice in May.

"As residential choice nears, the Illinois Commerce Commission encourages consumers to learn about electric service restructuring and be prepared to exercise future options. The market is opening to competition in May for residential customers of Illinois investor-owned utilities. This allows consumers to shop for an electric supplier just as they shop for other services for their homes. The ICC is also reminding business customers to use our information as a guide to making choices with confidence," said ICC Chairman Richard Mathias.

The ICC is offering consumer information on its **Plug in Illinois** Web site, <www.icc.state.il.us/pluginillinois>, including a checklist for choosing a supplier, a section listing suppliers as they become certified, and answers to frequently asked questions. Call toll-free, 1-877-758-4464, for the ICC's free residential and business consumer education brochures. (TDD users may call the Illinois Relay Center at 800-526-0844.)

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ILLINOIS-BASED FIRMS VYING TO WORK ON 2008 SUMMER OLYMPICS

With help from DCCA's Illinois Trade Office, six Illinois-based architecture design and engineering firms are exploring opportunities to work with the organizers of the 2008 Summer Olympic Games, to be held in Beijing, China.

The Illinois Trade Office worked with the U.S. Embassy in China, the U.S. Department of Commerce, and the American Chamber of Commerce in China to organize a trade mission in late May that gave the Illinois firms an opportunity to speak with organizing officials before the official bidding process begins in August. The trade mission also gave participants a chance to discuss business opportunities arising from the accession of China to the World Trade Organization (WTO).



The trade mission was part of the state's new Target Program, which matches Illinois companies with potential business partners around the globe.

"The Target Program works to provide Illinois companies with an easy, cost-effective means to explore entry into new international markets," said DCCA Director Pam McDonough. "This program supports the state's commitment to provide Illinois companies with the resources they need to succeed in the global economy."

Participating in the trade mission to China were:

- Zachary Zhao, Managing Director, State of Illinois China office
- Zhigang Ren, International Marketing Representative, DCCA
- Jun Xia, Vice President, Gensler
- Yi Kuo, Asia Pacific Program Director, LEGAT Architects International
- Donald Hackl, President, Loeb Scholssman & Hackl
- James Zeng, Associate, Lohn Caprile Goetsch Architects
- Brad Shaffer, Corporate Vice President, McClier
- Nicholas Pansic, Vice President, Montgomery Watson Harza



PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY CORNERSTONE PLACED

The cornerstone for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library was set into place by Governor George Ryan and First Lady Lura Lynn Ryan on June 10th in Springfield. The Library is scheduled to open to the public this fall, while the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum is scheduled to open in the spring of 2004. DCCA is working with tourism officials to promote the Library and Museum as a travel destination not only for Lincoln enthusiasts, but for families as well.



Director McDonough joins Debra Moore and Michael Jones from the Greater East St. Louis Regional Empowerment Zone for the grand opening of Parsons Place, a complex of apartments and townhouses in East St. Louis. Construction of the new neighborhood was funded in part through \$4.8 million in grants from Governor Ryan's Illinois FIRST Program. Parsons Place is viewed as being a important step toward the revitalization of East St. Louis.

SMALL BUSINESSES KEY TO ILLINOIS ECONOMY

Calling small businesses the “foundation of our state’s economy,” Governor George H. Ryan led the state’s celebration of National Small Business Week in Illinois in May.

“Nearly 98 percent of Illinois businesses employ fewer than 100 workers,” the Governor said. “Small businesses provide jobs for nearly half of all Illinois workers, and they create the majority of new jobs each year in our state. As a former small business owner, I commend Illinois entrepreneurs on their vision and hard work, and thank them for their contributions in making Illinois first in the nation for business development.”

In conjunction with the state’s celebration, the Governor released a report, *Advancement of Entrepreneurship throughout Illinois*, developed as a result of the state’s participation in the National Governors Association Policy Academy on Entrepreneurship. The report examined the state’s entrepreneurial climate and opportunities for economic development.

Pam McDonough, Director of the Department of Commerce and Community Affairs (DCCA), said the

Ryan administration has expanded efforts to nurture entrepreneurship. DCCA’s Small Business Office, administered in partnership with the U.S. Small Business Administration, brings together many of the state’s business programs. These include a statewide network of Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) offering general business assistance, Procurement Technical Assistance Centers that assist small businesses marketing to government, International Trade Centers and NAFTA Opportunity Centers that help companies explore exporting opportunities, and Small Business Technology Resource Centers that provide entrepreneurs with information on technology research and development opportunities.

In addition, DCCA administers the First Stop Business Information Center to help provide information and referrals to entrepreneurs wishing to start or expand businesses in Illinois, the Small Business Environmental Assistance Program, which helps small businesses understand their regulatory requirements under the Clean Air Act Amendments; and advocacy and targeted assistance to women and minority entrepreneurs, as well as those with disabilities.

“The important role played by small businesses cannot be overemphasized — particularly in lean economic times,” McDonough said. “Small businesses diversify our economy and create opportunities for employment. They also help insulate communities against the devastation that can occur when large industries downsize. That is why DCCA is committed to helping entrepreneurs pursue their dreams by starting and expanding businesses in Illinois.”

During his administration, the Governor has hosted three small business conferences that brought together small business owners and representatives, discussing issues affecting small businesses in Illinois, and appointed Phyllis Scott to the position of Small Business Advocate. His VentureTECH initiative called for a significant increase in availability of venture capital in the state, while the Illinois Workforce Advantage (IWA) is designed to strengthen the economic and social infrastructure of depressed communities.

For more information about DCCA’s programs to assist small businesses in Illinois, log on to <www.illinoisbiz.biz> or call the First Stop Business Information Center at 800/252-2923 (TDD: 800/785-6055).

Governor Announces 2003 Coal Calendar Contest Winners

Twenty-five school children whose essays and artwork will be published in the 2003 Illinois Coal Calendar were the honored guests at the Executive Mansion in Springfield at a special awards ceremony recognizing their efforts.

The winners were selected from entries submitted by more than 4,000 Illinois students in grades five through eight who participated in this year’s contest. The 2003 calendar will mark the 14th straight year for the Illinois Coal Calendar, which showcases student artwork and essays demonstrating

coal’s significance in Illinois and its relationship to energy and the environment. The contest is sponsored by DCCA’s Office of Coal Development.

“The Coal Calendar is one way of marketing our coal industry and initiatives,” said DCCA Director Pam McDonough. “With the level of support Governor Ryan has given to coal and energy development, it’s imperative that this message be spread to the business community and the public.”

Four schools also received special recognition at the ceremony: Minooka

Junior High was given a special award for submitting the most entries (397), while Immaculate Conception in Morris, East Side Intermediate in Harrisburg, and Immanuel Lutheran in Okawville were recognized for achieving full participation among all students in the school.

Copies of the 2003 Illinois Coal Calendar will be available in the fall, and may be obtained by contacting Barbara Antonini in DCCA’s Office of Coal Development, phone 217/782-3570 (TDD: 217/785-6055), e-mail: bantonin@commerce.state.il.us.

Southern Illinois Businesses Announce Expansions

Two Southern Illinois employers have announced plans to expand their operations in Illinois. Champion Laboratories, a major manufacturer of automobile and commercial filters, will expand its Albion facility; while The Material Works (TMW) is investing in new equipment at its Red Bud plant.

"Supporting existing Illinois companies is crucial to our state's ability to remain a leader in manufacturing," said Governor George H. Ryan. "I'm pleased they've decided to stay here and grow."

Champion Labs, which had considered sites in South Carolina and Mexico, will invest at least \$30 million at its Edwards County facility, adding several new manufacturing lines and modernizing existing equipment. The expansion is expected to retain 1,500 jobs. The company is eligible to receive assistance in training and upgrading the skills of its workers through DCCA's Industrial

Training Program; tax credits through the Economic Development for a Growing Economy (EDGE) program; designation as a High Impact Business, which could provide tax credits and exemptions; and also will benefit from infrastructure improvements made by the City of Albion with help from the state's Business Development Public Infrastructure program.

"We are grateful that the Governor and DCCA supported this major capital investment program," said Thomas Mowatt, Champion president. "We are involved in an increasingly global and competitive market. This community, state and corporate partnership will allow us to remain a stable source of employment in Southern Illinois."

DCCA Director Pam McDonough said the agency also would provide a \$291,500 Community Development Assistance Program (CDAP) grant to

Randolph County to help with construction costs associated with adding new rail trackage at the Baldwin Industrial Park near Red Bud. The county will utilize the grant on behalf of the Kaskaskia Regional Port District as part of its Port Rail Access Project. A federal Economic Development Administration grant will also assist with the project. The 5,000 feet of new trackage is needed to enable TMW to expand by investing in new coil processing equipment, establishing a heavy gauge steel, cut-to-length processing line. As a result, the company expects to create 36 new jobs over the next two years.

"The addition of rail facilities to the Port District's warehousing and distribution facilities, in combination with The Material Works' expanded processing capabilities, will make this the state-of-the-art steel processing center in the U.S.," said Kevin Voges, TMW President.

STEEL FIRM TO OPEN IN STERLING

Operation will create 200 jobs at site of former Northwestern Steel and Wire facility

Sterling is once again poised to become a steel industry town, following the announcement by Leggett & Platt, Inc. that it will open a new steel rod facility on the grounds of the former Northwestern Steel and Wire property.

The new subsidiary, to be called Sterling Steel Company, LLC, is expected to create 200 new jobs for Sterling-area workers, pleasing Sterling Mayor Ted Aggen.

"The City of Sterling is very excited about the announcement of Sterling Steel Company's plans to operate a steel rod facility on the former Northwestern Steel and Wire Company site," Aggen said. "The City of Sterling has for a number of months worked very diligently with Leggett & Platt and State of Illinois officials to make the Sterling Steel Company project a reality. With the assistance of Governor Ryan, Senator Todd Sieben, Representative Jerry Mitchell, Director Pam McDonough and the staff of the Department of Commerce and Community Affairs, Director Renee Cipriano and the staff of the Illinois Environmental Protection



DCCA Director Pam McDonough talks with dignitaries following the announcement that Sterling Steel LLC will begin operations in the former Northwestern Steel facility in Sterling.

Agency, and numerous local leaders, Sterling Steel Company, LLC will indeed become a reality and the cornerstone for further redevelopment of former Northwestern mill property."

DCCA Director Pam McDonough said the agency had worked closely with regional leaders to redevelop the steel mill property.

"This is just the first step in our reuse efforts," she said. "Using the economic

development initiatives that have been made available by Governor Ryan and the General Assembly, we will continue to stay focused on broadening the area's overall economic base."

McDonough said Sterling Steel will be eligible for tax credits through the Economic Development for a Growing Economy (EDGE) program, as well as workforce training programs through the Industrial Training Program (ITP). Both programs are administered by DCCA.

The company also will realize benefits by locating in an Enterprise Zone and a Tax Increment Financing District.

Leggett & Platt is a diversified manufacturer that conceives, designs and produces a broad variety of engineered components and products for customers, including residential furniture and bedding, non-automotive aluminum die castings, automotive seat support and lumbar systems, and bedding industry machinery for wire forming, sewing and quilting.

New Census Data Shows Improved Economic Conditions for Illinois Families

The 1990s saw a rise in the median household income in Illinois, while fewer families in the state lived below the poverty line, according to new data released by the U.S. Census Bureau.

From 1990 to 2000, median household income in Illinois increased by 10.7 percent, up to \$46,590. At the same time, the number of Illinois families living below the poverty line dropped by 7.6 percent and the number of female single-parent households below the poverty line dropped by 13.8 percent.

Governor George H. Ryan was particularly pleased with the report's findings regarding educational achievement. According to the Census, 81.4 percent of Illinoisans 25 years or older have graduated from high school, and 26.1 percent have earned a bachelor's degree. These statistics improved from 1990's figures, which showed 76.2 percent of the state's residents as having completed high school and 21 percent achieving a bachelor's degree.

"We're seeing more Illinoisans graduating from high school and pursuing post-secondary instruction levels, which bodes well for a continued increase in the quality of life for our residents," the Governor said.



At left, Governor George H. Ryan, Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs, Pam McDonough, Director, Division of Economic Development, Lynn Morford, Director, Division of Community Development, and Pam McDonough, Director, Division of Economic Development, holding the latest Census report.

Governor Ryan also pointed out that the Census data revealed that Illinois' face is changing. The number of residents working in manufacturing and agriculture — traditionally strong employers — dropped during the 1990s. Manufacturing jobs dropped from 1,055,047 in 1990 to 931,162 in 2000, while the number of Illinois residents working in agriculture and related industries fell by nearly 50 percent, down to 66,481 from 131,058 in 1990.

Other statistics provide insight into family and work trends. The number of residents born outside of the U.S. jumped more than 60 percent during the decade — more than 1.5 million people reported they were born in other nations. Meanwhile, about one in five Illinoisans reported speaking a language other than English at home — up from about one in seven in 1990.

There was a higher demand for child care in 2000, as 58.3 percent of children under six years of age had all parents living at home in the labor force — an increase of 2.6 percent during the decade. The number of people married in the state jumped from nearly 4.8 million in 1990 to more than 5.2 million in 2000; however, the number of divorced people also increased by more than 145,000 during the period.

Fewer people commuted to work using public transportation, but it took longer for those workers to reach their destination. In 1990, the average commute was 25.1 minutes; in 2000, that commute stretched to 28 minutes.

Additional data from the latest Census report can be accessed by visiting DCCA's Web site at www.illinoisbiz.biz/2000census.

Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs
620 East Adams Street
Springfield, Illinois 62701

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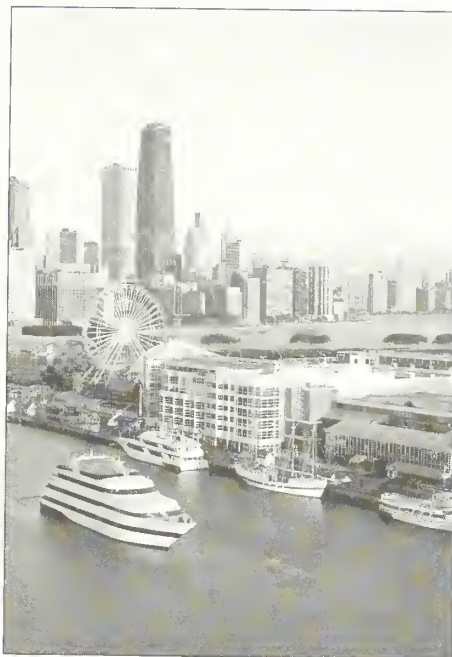
Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs

ENTREPRENEURIAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE PROVIDES NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES, BUSINESS INFORMATION

Mark your calendars to attend the 16th annual Entrepreneurial Women's Conference, scheduled for September 4-5 at Navy Pier in Chicago.

The conference — a premier opportunity for women business owners in the Midwest to network and gain business information — is cosponsored by DCCA's Small Business Office/Small Business Development Center, and hosted by the Women's Business Development Center in Chicago. A highlight of the conference is the Women's Business and Buyers Mart — touted as the nation's oldest and largest business opportunity fair for women business owners — which will feature more than 200 corporate and government exhibitors committed to buying products and services from women-owned businesses. DCCA's Small Business Office/Small Business Development Center will be among those exhibiting at the Women's Business and Buyers Mart.

Women-owned businesses are the fastest growing segment of the small business community; in fact, the National Foundation for Women Business Owners estimates that there are more than 6.2 million women-owned businesses in the U.S., accounting for 28 percent of all privately held



Chicago's Navy Pier hosts the 16th annual Entrepreneurial Women's Conference in September

firms in the nation. In Illinois, the Foundation estimates that more than 277,000 women-owned firms employ more than 515,000 workers and generate more than \$58.3 billion in sales.

Recognizing the importance of supporting women-owned businesses, DCCA administers a number of programs designed to encourage growth of this critical business segment. Illinois' network of Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) provides businesses with management,

marketing and financial counseling. The Office of Women's Business Development provides women entrepreneurs with information, referral and procurement assistance. The Women's Business Advocate works with organizations to promote women-owned businesses as potential vendors, partners and suppliers. The Illinois Women's Business Ownership Council (formerly chaired by DCCA Director Pam McDonough) provides information and education and collects data on the business climate for Illinois women entrepreneurs. And the First Stop Business Information Center provides free information about state and federal business requirements and regulations, business assistance programs, general information, and referrals to the SBDC Network offices — all through a toll-free telephone call or the Internet.

For more information or to register for the conference, visit the Women's Business Development Center Web site at <www.womensbusinessmart.com> or call 312/853-3477 (TDD users may call the Illinois Relay Center at 800/526-0844). For more information about DCCA's programs to assist women entrepreneurs, log on to <www.illinoisbiz.biz> or call the First Stop Business Information Center at 800/252-2923 (TDD: 800/785-6055).

Illinois' Small Business Development Center Network Accredited Through 2006

Illinois receives high praise from SBDC Accreditation Review Team

Illinois' Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Network has received continued accreditation from the Association of Small Business Development Centers, enabling the Illinois SBDC to continue to provide services to help entrepreneurs start and expand businesses in the state.

In a 20-page report, the Association of Small Business Development Centers accreditation review team applauded improvements in operations of the Illinois SBDC, particularly the "engaged, committed network staff." Team members noted improvements made in services provided to existing businesses, solid training activities, and the ability to leverage funding from sources other than state government. The report also cited multiple examples of effective advisory board involvement and commended Mark Petrilli, State Director of the Illinois Small Business Development Center, for his leadership and strong commitment to the services provided by the SBDC to help small businesses.

DCCA Director Pam McDonough was pleased with the accreditation. "DCCA is committed to continuous improvement in providing services to help new and existing businesses in Illinois. Small businesses remain the backbone of our economy and employ a large segment of our workforce," McDonough said.

The Illinois Small Business Development Center Network provides targeted support and information to small businesses in the state. The dedication and commitment of service providers has helped to identify the growing needs of Illinois small businesses and has led to creation of a number of services to help existing businesses and new business ventures. Services offered through the 40 local SBDC Network offices include free counseling, marketing, and assistance in identifying financial resources.

In Fiscal Year 2002, 11,487 clients received one-on-one counseling and

18,608 attended business training sessions offered through the Illinois SBDC Network.

DCCAs Small Business Office also administers the First Stop Business Information Center, which helps new business ventures receive step-by-step information on starting a business in Illinois, and also places them in direct contact with a nearby local SBDC Network office. First Stop clients can also receive help with licensing and registration, regulatory assistance compliance, or be connected to other state agencies that provide resources for small business. In Fiscal Year 2002, First Stop assisted 18,563 clients in gaining business information.

To contact First Stop, or for more information about DCCAs services to Illinois small businesses, call 1-800-252-2923 (TDD: 800/785-6055) or log on to <www.illinoisbiz.biz>.

ServiceMaster, Alcoa Expanding Illinois Facilities

Two major corporations are expanding in Illinois, citing the state's commitment to economic development as a chief reason for their decisions.

Alcoa Inc., the world's leading producer of primary aluminum, fabricated aluminum and alumina, announced the opening of a new office in Chicago, as well as the completion of an expansion project at the company's aluminum extrusion facility in Morris. ServiceMaster — which provides outsourcing services for more than 11.5 million residential and commercial customers — announced its decision to expand its national corporate headquarters in Downers Grove.

Alcoa relocated headquarters facilities of three of its businesses — Alcoa Mill Products (AMP), Alcoa Engineered Products (AEP), and Alcoa Closure Systems International (CSI) — to Chicago Illinois' central location, talented workers and global reputation impressed the company's officials.

"We chose our executive offices to be here because of the large presence of our

customers in the Midwest and that we can easily get to customers on either coast," said Paul D. Thomas, Alcoa Vice President and President of Alcoa Mill Products.

"Chicago has clearly emerged as an important global commerce center," added Sandra Beach Lin, president of Alcoa CSI. "This location meets our requirements for global connectivity, job talent availability, world-class services and resources. It is perfect for facilitating our continued growth."

Alcoa also announced completion of a \$3 million installation of a replacement aluminum extrusion press at its Morris facility. The press, coupled with a \$5 million investment in special production equipment, will enable the company to add 35 jobs, bringing total employment at the plant to 330.

DCCA Director Pam McDonough said the Morris project is eligible for tax credits through the Economic Development for a Growing Economy (EDGE) program, as well as assistance with worker training through the Industrial Training Program (ITP).

"EDGE and ITP continue to be major tools in creating new jobs in Illinois," McDonough said. "Governor Ryan's foresight in creating the EDGE program, and his 20 years of support for job training programs, continue to pay dividends for Illinois."

McDonough added that both EDGE and ITP assistance has been offered to ServiceMaster to help the company expand its national corporate headquarters in Downers Grove. ServiceMaster's expansion plans will enable the company to create 25 new jobs and retain employees at its headquarters.

ServiceMaster Chairman and CEO Jonathan Ward praised the quality of Illinois' workers and the state's willingness to work with businesses.

"We have an outstanding team here in Illinois and continue to be impressed with the quality of workers available across the state," said Ward. "We're especially pleased that Illinois supports ServiceMaster's continuing commitment to help our people grow through training and development."

GOVERNOR CONGRATULATES WINNERS OF 2002 HOME TOWN AWARDS

Champaign County's Crisis Nursery Wins Governor's Cup

Representatives from 62 organizations from throughout Illinois took home road signs and plaques recognizing volunteer efforts to improve their communities following the 21st annual Governor's Home Town Awards banquet, held in Springfield in June.

Champaign County received the top honor — the traveling silver Governor's Cup — for its Crisis Nursery, which provides child care in times of family crisis.

In congratulating the winners, Governor George H. Ryan called volunteers the "heroes of our nation."

"Following the tragedies on September 11, people from throughout the country stepped forward to help," the Governor said. "Their efforts demonstrate that when there's a need, volunteers are there to help."

"The efforts we recognize today remind us once again that Illinois volunteers are ready and willing to step up, take the lead and work in the trenches to meet challenges and address opportunities in communities throughout our state. As Governor, it is my privilege to thank Illinois' volunteers for their contributions to improving the quality of life enjoyed by the people of our state."



Illinois State Treasurer Judy Baar Topinka and Abraham Lincoln impersonator Fritz Klein presented the Governor's Cup to representatives of Champaign County's Crisis Nursery during the 21st annual Governor's Home Town Awards banquet in Springfield.

DCCA Director Pam McDonough agreed. "Volunteers generally do their work out of a sense of duty and purpose, not for rewards and recognition," said McDonough. "But these awards give us a chance to call attention to those efforts and emphasize the contributions of volunteers in making our state a great place to live, raise a family, and do business."

This year, awards were presented in eight categories based on community population. Volunteer judges reviewed and ranked applications based on local need,

volunteer participation, project continuity and results. After an initial review that narrowed the applications to a maximum of nine in each population category, the judges visited those communities, then selected one project from each category to compete for the Governor's Cup as the project most representative of the spirit of Illinois volunteerism.

The overall winner, Champaign County's Crisis Nursery, was founded 17 years ago. It depends heavily on volunteers, from university students to senior citizens, who assist with daily operations, special projects, serve on its board of directors, and undertake numerous fundraising activities. In 2001, thanks to their efforts and generous donations, the nursery moved into a new building designed specifically for its programs, enabling the nursery to expand services and be licensed to care for up to 12 children at a time. Over the course of the year, the nursery handled nearly 1,700 admissions.

Applications for the 2003 Governor's Home Town Awards will be available in late fall. For information, contact Lou Ann Ladage at 217/558-2838 (TDD: 217/785-6055), e-mail: lladage@commerce.state.il.us.

Tour the Virtual Coal Mine on DCCA's New Web Site

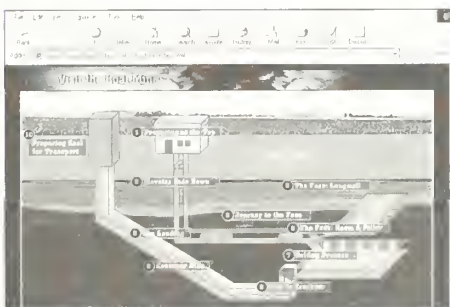
Have you ever wondered how coal is mined? What it's like to work underground? How coal is used to make electricity?

The answers may be found by visiting DCCA's new Web site at <www.illinoisbiz.biz> and touring the Virtual Coal Mine, which offers visitors a look at the operation of Illinois coal mines and the work performed by the miners who labor there.

The Virtual Coal Mine Tour was developed to educate the general public on Illinois coal and modern mining techniques, as well as the reasons why coal is so important to the Illinois economy. The tour features animation, as well as photos and video segments shot at the Turrus Mine at Elkhart in Logan County and the Monterey Coal Company mine at Carlinville in Macoupin County. Developed and written by staff from DCCA's Office of Coal Development with assistance from the United Mine Workers and the coal companies, the tour

was produced by thinktank.

Visitors taking the tour begin with above-ground preparations, then "ride" an elevator 300 feet into the coal seam. From there, the user travels to the face where coal is being cut. The tour describes both longwall mining, as well as room and pillar mining. Viewers then see how roof bolting is used to support the roof, and how coal is placed on a conveyor and transported to the surface. Once the coal is



on top, the tour shows how it is washed and prepared for transport to utility plants. A section of the tour shows coal being transported to a power plant, three different types of clean coal technology, how electricity is generated and distributed through the power grid to substations, and eventually, how it arrives in homes. The tour also includes information on Illinois coal's historical significance.

Visitors to the Virtual Coal Mine Tour will see real miners working in a challenging environment. It is hoped that viewers will come away with a new appreciation of the Illinois coal industry and the men and women who mine the coal.

To visit the Virtual Coal Mine and take the tour, visit <www.illinoisbiz.biz>, click on "Coal," then click on "Virtual Tour." The Virtual Coal Mine will also be featured in DCCA's display in Tech Town at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield, August 9 - 18.

CDAP GRANTS HELP COMMUNITIES PLAN WATER, SEWER PROJECTS

Thirty small Illinois communities will be able to proceed with developing plans to alleviate threats to public health and safety caused by insufficient water and sewer systems, thanks to grants recently announced by Governor George H. Ryan.

Grants totaling \$700,000 were awarded through the Community Development Assistance Program (CDAP), administered by the Department of Commerce and Community Affairs (DCCA). The program is funded through the federal Community Development Block Grant Program, administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

DCCA Director Pam McDonough said the grants will enable the communities to develop plans necessary before

any actual infrastructure improvement projects could be undertaken. "The CDAP grants serve as a tremendous resource for many municipalities throughout Illinois," McDonough said. "This is the first step for these communities as they look to make necessary improvements benefiting residents and businesses alike."

Grants awarded ranged from \$14,250 awarded to the Village of Bowen in Hancock County to study existing problems with storm sewers and drainage, to \$25,000 awarded to the Village of Shumway in Effingham County to develop a plan to install a community sewer system.

CDAP grants are awarded to units of local government in communities with populations of 50,000 or less

that are not located within one of the eight urban counties or 38 cities that receive funds directly from HUD. Eligible projects must address threats to public health and safety and must benefit at least 51 percent low- and moderate-income people within the communities.

Often, communities receiving CDAP planning assistance grants seek additional grants through CDAP's Public Facilities Construction or Design Engineering component to undertake actual construction or design engineering projects identified through the planning process.

For more information about CDAP grants, contact 217/785-6142 (TDD: 217/785-6055) or log on to www.illinoisbiz.biz/com/cdap.html.

Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs
620 East Adams Street
Springfield, Illinois 62701

DCCA NEWS is published by
the Illinois Department of
Commerce and Community
Affairs

George H. Ryan • Governor
Pam McDonough • Director
Lynn Morford • Editor

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Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs

DCCA GRANT WILL HELP BUILD WIND-TO-ENERGY FARM

An innovative wind-to-energy farm in rural Lee County is expected to add \$50 million to the local tax base, reduce air pollution, and bring a clean and inexhaustible source of electricity to thousands of Illinoisans.

The \$56 million project, being constructed by Minneapolis-based Navitas Energy, is being built with assistance from a \$2.75 million grant awarded through the state's Renewable Energy Resources Trust Fund, administered by the Department of Commerce and Community Affairs (DCCA).

"For Illinois to continue to successfully compete in the global economy, our businesses and residents need access to secure, reliable and affordable energy," said DCCA Director Pam McDonough. "By diversifying the sources of energy we can tap into here, we are ensuring our long-term economic prosperity."

Greg Jaunich, Navitas Energy CEO, said the company appreciated DCCA's participation in the project. "The state

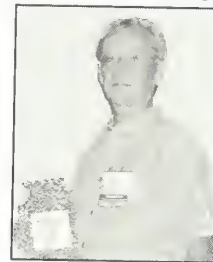
of Illinois' support helps promote the generation of clean, wind-generated electricity in Illinois. We believe this will be the first of many projects Navitas will be building in the state."

The first of nearly three dozen wind turbines are expected to be constructed by next year. When completed, the wind farm will generate 133 million kilowatts of electricity — enough to meet the needs of 15,000 households. The company plans to sell its power through Commonwealth Edison service territory to customers who wish to purchase wind-generated electricity under Illinois' newly deregulated energy market.

The wind farm is expected to provide numerous environmental benefits, eliminating the annual equivalent of 76,000 tons of carbon dioxide (a greenhouse gas), 800 tons of sulfur dioxide (a source of acid rain), and 300 tons of carbon monoxide.

DCCA STAFF RECEIVE STATE, NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Pat Bumpus, assistant deputy director of DCCA's Bureau of Energy and Recycling, was named Illinois Recycler of the Year by the Illinois Recycling Association (IRA). Bumpus, who joined the bureau in 1991, received the award at the IRA's annual conference, held in July.



Pat Bumpus

In naming Bumpus, the IRA cited his work as a "tireless proponent of recycling throughout the State of Illinois." In particular, the association praised Bumpus for his strong advocacy of construction waste recycling and organic composting, his efforts to promote America Recycles Day activities in Illinois, and his active support of the IRA.

The Illinois Recycling Association is composed of recycling professionals in government, business, educational institutions, and non-profit organizations, and is a full affiliate of the National Recycling Coalition (NRC).

Meanwhile, Henry Kurth, Manager of DCCA's Energy Office, was recognized by the U.S. Department of Energy for his outstanding achievements as a State Energy Program Manager. Kurth received a national recognition award during the 2002 State Energy Program/ReBuild America National Conference in New Orleans.

BUSINESS EXPANSION UPDATE

The latest firms to announce their expansion plans in Illinois include Unilever, United Stationers Supply Co., and Menk GMBH, which combined will create nearly 500 new jobs for Illinois workers.

Unilever, formed in 1930 by the merger of Dutch margarine company Margarine Unie and British soapmaker Lever Brothers, is one of the world's largest consumer goods businesses. The company plans to locate a new 1.3 million square foot distribution/repackaging facility in the Gateway Commerce Center in Pontoon Beach. The \$50 million facility, which will create 350 new jobs, is being developed for Unilever by ProLogis, a global provider of distribution facilities and services, and will be one of the Midwest's largest distribution/repackaging centers.

"Unilever has selected Illinois as a prime location to meet our distribution needs," said Fred Berkheimer, Vice President, Logistics, for Unilever HPC. "The support we have

received through the Department of Commerce and Community Affairs has confirmed our decision. We look forward to a healthy, long-term relationship with the State of Illinois."

In Sterling, Menk GMBH is opening its first venture in the U.S. The company, which plans to create 50 jobs at its Menk USA LLC subsidiary, will manufacture radiators and coolant systems for transformers in a new 50,000 square foot facility in the Meadowlands Business Park.

"To be successful, you need determined and reliable partners, and in this context, I would like to say 'thank you' to everybody who helped us realize this project," said Karl Gross, Managing Director, Menk GMBH. "Especially, I would like to thank the representatives of the town of Sterling and the State of Illinois for supporting us with help and advice."

United Stationers Supply Co. recently announced its plans to expand its Greenville in-bound call center. The company will construct an 18,000 square foot facility, creating 75 new jobs and retaining 67 jobs. DCCA will provide financing assistance to the City of Greenville through the Business Development Public Infrastructure Program to assist the project. The company also is eligible to receive workforce training grants through ITP and tax credits through the EDGE program.

"We are very excited about this growth opportunity in Greenville," said Randall W. Larrimore, President and Chief Executive Officer of United Stationers. "Everyone at the municipal and state levels has been extremely cooperative in helping to move this project along. United Stationers has been in this community for over 13 years and we are really delighted to be expanding our call center operation and creating new jobs."

DCCA HELPS FUND RESEARCH USING ILLINOIS COAL BYPRODUCTS IN MANUFACTURING COMMERCIAL BRICK

Every year, tons of Illinois coal fly ash — a byproduct from burning bituminous coal — is landfilled in Illinois. DCCA is funding a project designed to use this fly ash in the manufacture of commercially fired brick — a project that could provide an alternative and positive use for this coal byproduct.

The research, being funded in part through the Coal Research Program, administered by DCCA's Office of Coal Development under the technical oversight of the Illinois Clean Coal Institute (ICCI), is the first reported study using Illinois coal fly ash in the manufacture of fired brick. Incorporation of fly ash in fired brick has previously been studied with various formulations using different fly ash sources worldwide; however, studies in the U.S. have shown that fly ashes produced from burning sub-bituminous and lignite coals are not adequate for fired brickmaking. A few studies have been conducted on fly ashes from burning bituminous coals, but the technology used in these studies was not adopted by the brick industry.

In Year 1 (2000) of a study funded by DCCA and the ICCI performed at the Illinois State



Geological Survey, with support from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Global Clay Marseilles, Richards Brick Co., Ameren Central Illinois Public Service, and Central Illinois Light Company's Edwards Power Plant, Dr. Mei-In Chou focused on laboratory tests to make bricks with a fly ash content ranging from 20 percent to 50 percent. In the second year, the research focused on a pilot plant demonstration, and a market survey and economic analysis were completed. More than 1,000 test bricks, produced from both dry and ponded fly ash, were produced for evaluation. The test bricks had shale-rich formulations, and were found to

meet ASTM building brick specifications. In the current phase, the bricks are being produced in a commercial facility. During May 2002, 5,000 bricks were produced at Colonial Brick Company using ponded fly ash from the Ameren CIPS Meredosia plant. Another commercial test is scheduled to be conducted this month at the facilities of Streater Brick Company in Northern Illinois. The test bricks have so far met or exceeded commercial specifications.

DCCA's Coal Research Program, considered to be at the forefront of state coal research programs both nationally and internationally, provides grants to universities and other research institutions engaged in clean coal research activities. The program is designed to address the problems that coal users and producers encounter in meeting the standards of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990.

For information about the program, contact DCCA's Office of Coal Development at 217/785-2017 (TDD: 217/785-6055).

GRANTS HELP PROMOTE TOURISM THROUGHOUT ILLINOIS

Recognizing Illinois' rich variety of attractions and events for visitors to enjoy, Governor George H. Ryan announced more than \$1 million in grants designed to help organizations promote and market tourism destinations.

"These grants help local museums, festivals and tourism attractions promote themselves, thereby increasing attendance and helping to fill hotel rooms throughout the state," the Governor said. "We've seen over and over again that people who stay overnight spend more money in the community and help employ hundreds of thousands of Illinoisans around the state in tourism and hospitality-related industries."

DCCA Director Pam McDonough said the grants were funded through the Tourism Attraction Development Grant Program (TAP) and the Tourism Marketing Partnership Program (MPP). TAP grants enable municipalities, counties and local groups to develop and improve tourist attractions. They may be used to improve an existing tourism attraction or develop a new attraction with the potential to draw visitors and generate overnight stays, as well

as for feasibility studies, to plan for new attractions, or to fund interpretive programs within cultural and historic sites.



DCCA Director Pam McDonough joined Springfield Mayor Karen Hasara and Maynard Crossland, Director of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, in unveiling plans for the city's "Here I Have Lived" program. The program, a series of outdoor exhibits enhancing Springfield's Lincoln historic sites, was made possible in part through a Tourism Attraction Grant awarded by DCCA's Bureau of Tourism.

MPP grants match funds spent by municipalities, counties and local not-for-profit groups for projects that promote and market tourism destinations, attractions and events that increase visitation and travel expenditures in Illinois. Funding for both grant programs is generated by hotel/motel taxes.

"Tourism continues to be a valuable economic development tool for the State of Illinois," said McDonough. "We've had tremendous success assisting local communities promote their attractions and events. When more people are aware of the fun and exciting things to see and do in Illinois, they tend to plan ahead and stay longer, and, consequently, spend more money. This means a lot of jobs for people in all communities around the state."

Examples of the projects funded included the Illinois State University 2002 Shakespeare Festival, the new Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center in Hartford, the Octave Chanute Aerospace Museum in Rantoul, the Museum of Broadcast Communications in Chicago, and the Adventure River Water Park in Franklin County.



Illinois Hosts Successful 2002 Small Business Ombudsmen/Small Business Assistance Programs National Conference

More than 150 people from 43 states and territories converged in Chicago in early July for the 10th Annual Small Business Ombudsmen/Small Business Assistance Programs National Conference. Hosted by DCCA's Small Business Environmental Assistance Program, the conference featured informative sessions giving policy updates, as well as technical training and opportunities to exchange information among state assistance programs regarding best practices. Breakout sessions also were available for compliance advisory panel members, newcomers, technical and professional staff.

The conference began with a welcome from DCCA Director Pam McDonough. Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley provided a presentation on the city's efforts to become a "green" city, particularly highlighting issues such as brownfield redevelopment, green

space conservation, and land use planning, as well as the use of green roofs throughout the city for stormwater control. Participants also heard from Tom Skinner, USEPA Region V Administrator, who detailed the Bush Administration's Clear Skies Initiative, a bold new program to cut power plant emissions. Thomas Sullivan, Chief Counsel for Advocacy for the Small Business Administration, discussed the role of his office in regulatory rule making, as well as economic research regarding the contributions to the economy made by small businesses.

State programs were mandated under Section 507 of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, and comprise three components: a Small Business Assistance Program to provide detailed technical assistance that small businesses need; an

Ombudsman to advocate on behalf of small businesses within the regulatory environment; and a Compliance Advisory Panel made up of small business owners and representatives, who are consulted and advise on program content.

Over the last five years, the Small Business Ombudsmen and Small Business Assistance Programs have assisted more than 3 million companies nationally with environmental requirements. Since 1993, the Illinois Small Business Environmental Assistance Program has provided free confidential assistance to nearly 77,000 companies. For more information regarding the Illinois Small Business Environmental Assistance Program, contact the toll-free helpline at 800/252-3998 (TDD 800/785-6055), or log on to <http://www.illinois-biz.biz/bus/env_assist/sbea.html>.



GOVERNOR SIGNS LIHEAP BILL, EXTENDS PROGRAM THROUGH 2007

Calling it an "essential program to bring heating and cooling relief to low-income residents across Illinois," Governor George H. Ryan signed Senate Bill 2235, amending the John W. Maitland Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, ensuring its continuation through 2007, and increasing DCCA's flexibility in administering the program.

The program, funded through federal grants, as well as state funds, assists

eligible households to pay for winter energy services, reconnect to energy sources, and pay medically necessary cooling costs (depending on program availability). Under the program, qualifying households may receive a one-time benefit, determined by their household income, household size, fuel type used, and geographic location within the state. Administered by DCCA, the program is operated at the local level by the state's network of Community Action Agencies.

Since its inception, LIHEAP has been critical in helping low-income Illinoisans improve their quality of life. During Fiscal Year 2002, the program provided assistance to approximately 280,000 people. Earlier this year, Governor Ryan renamed the program to honor former Senator Maitland, who had been a long-time supporter of

LIHEAP and a member of its initial program design group.

Under the amendment, DCCA will receive additional legislative guidance for the program. In addition, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program Policy Advisory Council, which advises the agency on the program's administration, is expanded from 15 members to 20 members.

For more information about the John W. Maitland Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, log on to DCCA's Web site at <http://www.illinoisbiz.biz/com/lowincome/LIHEAP.htm>. For a listing of Community Action Agencies administering the program, visit <http://www.illinoisbiz.biz/com/lowincome/CSBGAgencies.htm> or call 800/252-8643 (TDD users call 800/785-6055).

Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs
620 East Adams Street
Springfield, Illinois 62701

DCCA NEWS is published by
the Illinois Department of
Commerce and Community
Affairs

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Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs

DCCA and Seven Illinois Communities form "MetroNet"

Seven Central Illinois communities have joined forces with DCCA in an effort to leverage their mutual advantages into a regional economic development force to be reckoned with.

Called the Central Illinois MetroNet, the new partnership includes the communities of Springfield, Peoria-Pekin, LaSalle-Peru, Bloomington-Normal, Danville, Champaign-Urbana, and Decatur — all working together to capitalize on their well-trained, available workforce, affordable land and housing, convenient transportation, access to technology, and a strong pro-business climate. These benefits, plus a location literally at the center of Illinois and the center of the nation, are seen as key strengths in attracting and retaining businesses looking to expand the bottom line.

The MetroNet is noted for its highly skilled people, with a workforce nearly 700,000 strong. Eighteen colleges and universities, including the state's flagship university, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, call the region home. Community colleges and universities alike work closely with area businesses to develop curricula and programs designed to train workers in the skills needed to hit the ground running. Plus, the overall cost of living in the region is less than the national average, while still supporting a high quality lifestyle.

Several major industries already call Central Illinois home, including



finance, technology, manufacturing, distribution, food processing and healthcare. The area boasts the world headquarters of Caterpillar, Archer Daniels Midland, and State Farm Insurance, and also is home to other Fortune 500 companies, including Mitsubishi Motor Manufacturing of America, Quaker Oats, Kraft and ALCOA.

The area gets positive reviews from top corporate officials.

"Central Illinois offers easy access to excellent industry infrastructure, a talented workforce, an enviable quality of life and a business environment rich with opportunities for growth," said Caterpillar Chairman and CEO Glen A. Barton.

"We chose Peru due to its excellent location relative to our steel sources, proximity to the interstate highway network and the Midwest market, the availability of both skilled and unskilled

labor, and the numerous incentives offered by the State of Illinois and the City of Peru," said Carl P. Koehler, Executive Vice President, United Steel Deck, Inc.

"Danville is a solid, family-oriented community with active initiatives that support and nurture its notable heritage, steady growth, and developments. The community exhibits a high degree of respect and cooperation between local industry, education and various sectors of government," added Joe Pycz, President, Krupp Gerlach Company.

In launching the MetroNet, DCCA Director Pam McDonough noted that the agency works closely with the member communities to offer targeted incentives that complement their strengths.

"Illinois FIRST and the Economic Development for a Growing Economy (EDGE) program are just two of the programs that can help businesses that choose to locate in the MetroNet region," McDonough said. "Plus, the communities themselves offer a number of other incentives, such as tax increment financing, enterprise zones, low-interest business assistance loans, and other benefits."

To learn more about the Central Illinois MetroNet, contact DCCA's Bureau of Business Development at 877/221-4403 (TDD: 800/785-6055) or log on to www.illinoisbiz.biz.

JOINT VENTURE CHOOSES DANVILLE

New manufacturing facility will create 50 jobs

A new joint venture between Systrand Manufacturing Corporation and Krupp Hoesch Automotive of America will create 50 new jobs in Danville, thanks to assistance from DCCA and the City of Danville.

Systrand Presta Engine Systems LLC plans to lease a new 80,000 square foot facility adjacent to the existing ThyssenKrupp Gerlach Company - Presta Division facility in Danville. The new plant will grind and polish camshaft blanks produced by ThyssenKrupp Gerlach Company - Presta Division, which is a member of the ThyssenKrupp Presta Group and a ThyssenKrupp Automotive company that manufactures universal joints and assembles camshafts and steering assemblies for the automotive industry.

Vicki Stewart, President and CEO of Vermilion Advantage, said the organization was delighted that the joint venture is locating in Danville. "The ThyssenKrupp Gerlach Company has been a major force in our local economy. The addition of Systrand has further strengthened our commitment to maintaining a quality, competitive environment for growing, technology-based manufacturers such as these. We are also appreciative of the continued support of the State of Illinois for providing us many of the support tools to maintain a competitive edge."

Company executives also expressed their pleasure with the announcement.

"We are excited at the opportunity to locate and grow in a business friendly community like Danville," said Sharon Cannarsa, President and CEO

of Systrand. "The State of Illinois, and namely Vicki Stewart from Vermilion Advantage, was critical to our location decision in Danville. Systrand Presta is forging a partnership with the City of Danville and is committed to grow together for the mutual benefit of the community, our employees, and our company."

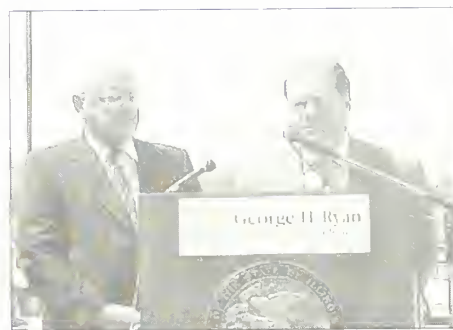
"We continue to be impressed by the teamwork and quality of the economic development team that represents the Danville area," said Adolf Pfeiffer, President of ThyssenKrupp Gerlach Company - Presta Division, and a member of the Board of Managers for the Systrand Presta Engine Systems LLC. "Vermilion County and Danville officials work closely with Vicki Stewart and the Vermilion Advantage staff to make the Danville area an attractive location for growth and expansion."

Illinois Makes a Pitch for the St. Louis Cardinals

Saying the project could bring significant economic benefits to Illinois, Governor George H. Ryan convened a high-level meeting designed to pitch the State of Illinois as the new home of the St. Louis Cardinals baseball team.

The Governor brought together DCCA Director Pam McDonough and Illinois Department of Transportation Secretary Kirk Brown in a late August meeting with Cardinals President Mark Lamping, hoping to convince the team to choose Illinois for a new ballpark.

"If the Cardinals were to play their home games in a stadium on the Illinois side of the Mississippi River, the communities surrounding the new



Gov. George H. Ryan and St. Louis Cardinals President Mark Lamping met with reporters to discuss negotiations that could bring the team to Illinois.

facility would reap significant economic benefits from the creation of a new hospitality industry in the region that would serve visitors attending

baseball games and other events at the facility," the Governor said.

Four Illinois communities — Duplo, Madison, Fairmont City and the East St. Louis riverfront — are under consideration by the Cardinals management. The team has indicated that easy access to interstate highways and public transportation are key factors in the site selection process.

"DCCA stands ready to assist those Metro East communities that are still under consideration by the Cardinals," McDonough said. "We're encouraged that the Cardinals have started a serious dialogue with several communities in Illinois."

ITP Making a Difference in Robinson

DCCA's popular Industrial Training Program (ITP) is making a difference in Robinson, where more than 1,300 workers have recently received training to help them keep their skills in pace with changing workplace technologies.

During a tour of the Marathon Ashland Petroleum Refinery in Robinson, Governor George H. Ryan told workers that ITP is designed to save and create jobs for the workers of Illinois and the industries that employ them.

"Our investment is helping your families in Southern Illinois, and that is what government is all about," Ryan said.

Marathon is projecting a four year, \$180 million investment in its Robinson facility, installing and upgrading production, environmental and safety equipment to enable the plant to comply with environmental regulations and become more cost-efficient and competitive. Nearly 630 workers at the plant have trained in safety, emergency preparedness, environmental

compliance, and technical and process operations thanks, in part, to a \$654,000 ITP grant

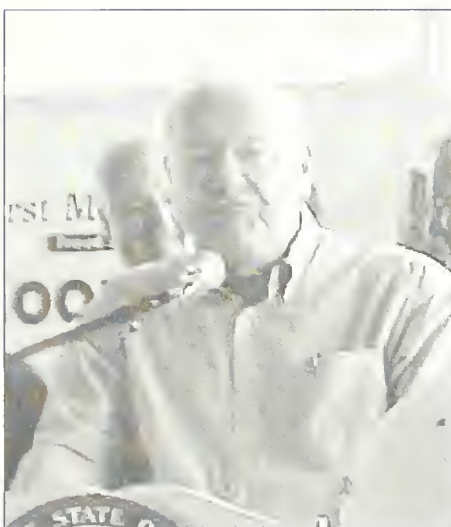
Another Robinson facility — Hershey's — also was targeted in the past year for ITP assistance to help train 700 of its employees.

DCCA's Fiscal Year 2003 budget allocates \$21.6 million for ITP grants, which are expected to help Illinois businesses train and upgrade the skills of more than 90,000 workers.

Study Will Evaluate Potential for Additional Ethanol Production in Illinois

A new study, being undertaken with support from DCCA, along with the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development, will investigate what steps need to be taken to help Illinois continue to remain at the forefront of ethanol production in the United States.

The study, announced on Agriculture Day at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield, will be conducted by the Illinois Corn Growers Association. Researchers will review the current ethanol industry, project the demand for ethanol through the year 2012, evaluate corn and other feedstock resources, and analyze the basic needs that must be met to support additional ethanol production in Illinois, such as labor, utilities, transportation and infrastructure. The study also will compare taxes and incentives in Illinois and neighboring states, and identify financial institutions with



Gov. George H. Ryan used Agriculture Day at the Illinois State Fair to announce a new study investigating what steps should be taken to help Illinois stay in the forefront of ethanol production in the United States.

potential interest in backing new ethanol production facilities and farmer cooperatives.

"The study will aid current and future

ethanol producers to select sites, develop business plans and obtain financing to build or expand production facilities in Illinois," said DCCA Director Pam McDonough. "It also will assist policy makers to compare potential ethanol production capacity in Illinois to other states."

In July, DCCA received a grant from the USDA Rural Development to fund the study. DCCA also is contributing \$16,000 from the Illinois Biomass Energy Program to assist the effort, which also will benefit from an \$8,000 AgriFirst Program grant awarded by the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

Illinois is the top ethanol producing state in the nation, and demand for the renewable fuel is expected to grow; in fact, researchers estimate that demand is expected to grow to about five billion gallons annually from the present 1.8 billion gallons.

ILEED OFFERS INTERSHIPS, ENERGY EDUCATION WORKSHOPS

Teaching young people to use energy resources responsibly is one of the main goals behind DCCA's ILEED (Illinois Energy Education Development) Program. And every year, ILEED offers special programs to make energy and environmental education fun, as well as informative.

One of the most ambitious programs is the ILEED Energy Intern Program, which gives Illinois high school juniors and seniors an opportunity to gain professional experience with a number of energy-related organizations. Now in its 14th year, the program has sponsored as many as 35 interns per summer in jobs at energy-related organizations throughout Illinois.

ILEED is looking for new energy-related organizations willing to host an intern next summer. If your organization is interested in receiving additional information, contact Peggy Chamness at

217/785-3411, e-mail: pchamnes@commerce.state.il.us. The deadline to apply to become a potential host organization is October 30. Or, if you know of a high school junior or senior who would be interested in an internship, contact Sara Ettinger at 217/785-3420, e-mail: settinge@commerce.state.il.us. Deadline for application for summer 2003 internships is February 21, 2003.

This October, ILEED also will be offering a number of free, one-day workshops for Illinois teachers and students (fourth through eighth grades). The workshops offer attendees the opportunity to engage in energy activities, projects and demonstrations, and are taught by presenters who have been working with the program in their own classrooms. Teachers attending the workshops also may qualify for CPDU (Continuing Professional Development Unit) credits. For more information, or to register for a workshop, contact Marie Westerhold at

DCCA, phone 217/785-2013, e-mail: mwesterh@commerce.state.il.us.

(TDD users may call 217/785-6055 for information about ILEED programs.)

FALL 2002 ILEED WORKSHOPS October

- 8 Pontiac - Pontiac Elks Lodge
- 9 Bourbonnais - Holiday Inn Express
- 10 Chicago - Museum of Science & Industry
- 16 Carterville - John A. Logan College
- 17 Schaumburg - Spring Valley Nature Center
- 22 Macomb - Western Illinois University
- 23 Springfield - University of Illinois
- 24 Belleville - Regional Office of Education
- 24 Charleston - Eastern Illinois University
- 29 Peoria - Holiday Inn Brandywine

November

- 13 Godfrey - Lewis & Clark Community College
- 15 Mt. Carroll - Mt. Carroll Methodist Church

Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs
620 East Adams Street
Springfield, Illinois 62701

DCCA NEWS is published by
the Illinois Department of
Commerce and Community
Affairs

George H. Ryan • Governor

Pam McDonough • Director

Lynn Morford • Editor

First Class
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SPRINGFIELD, IL
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